Posters: Bob Catlin ★ ★ ★ Abbas Saad

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

VOL 18 No. 807—TUESDAY, JANUARY 7 1997 • REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST — PUBLICATION No NBQ5726 $2.50

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE ACTION

The visit of Terry Venables, the former El Tel: now Oz Tel? for the first time since his days as a player with Chelsea in the swinging 60s, has been an eagerly awaited event.

Visits by Australia's newest head coach to various Ericsson Cup games are receiving maximum media exposure. This level of market awareness is unprecedented in Australia's sometimes tortured Association Football history. It isn't purchaseable, it is because of the one man, Oz Tel.

A far sighted decision was taken with the Venables appointment. If the profile of the World Game in this country can't be raised by considerable degrees during the term of Oz Tel, then it will forever be condemned to be an also ran in the sporting consciousness of the so called 'mainstream' of Australian society.

It is imperative that every effort is made to ensure the qualification of Australia for France 98. The announcement of the dawn by 'Le Coq Sportif' has taken place. As the sun rises over the horizon the Australian team's preparations both on and off the field must be superior.

It is a shame and a scandal that Australia has only qualified for one Finals of the World Cup, and that was twenty three years ago in the former West Germany.

The team was a mixture of people mainly from overseas but sworn to the cause of the Green and Gold.

They were all part-timers. Their earnings from the game were minute. We were a major importer of, in some cases, failed overseas players. However there were many to whom playing the great game, as more or less a hobby, was a real challenge. In this way many reached unimaginable potential.

Today we even have some players in Australia whose sole income comes from Soccer and associated activities. Certainly a select few overseas have the opportunity to become wealthy. Let us hope that the temptations which come with much money are pushed aside.

Others are enjoying a comfortable lifestyle, certainly earning reasonable rewards for their efforts on the field of play.

The question is, how can the best be extracted from the ones overseas and the others at home.

A start was made with last year's True Blues versus Travellers series. Is it firmly in the 1997 calendar? Maybe it should be expanded to a four team round robin. It is possible to form two teams from the 100 or more beyond these shores.

The other two would be drawn from Ericsson Cup teams of which 250 players form the pool. A four team competition could be a big attraction, for spectators, players, sponsors and of course our coaching staff.

There could be Oz Tel's Cavaliers, Raul's Raiders, Les' Lads and Matic's Emerging Talent. Prize money would need to be organised. However, the real prize would be selection in Australia's team to challenge for the Confederation's Cup in December this year.

Sixty players vying for 22 spots in the senior team. Others still under 20 years old getting used to the Green and Gold feeling, ready for Youth World Cup in Malaysia, possibly.

Once more an opportunity to see in live action players like Bosnich, the Vidmar brothers, Lazarides, Muscat, Veart, Zelic, Okon. What an array of talent in just these eight!

A pipe dream? Maybe, but anything is possible.

ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

STRIKERS JOIN UNITED ON TOP

Brisbane Strikers 3 — Sydney United 0

By Glenn Davis

Less than 24 hours after Terry Venables touched down on Australian soil, Brisbane Strikers joined Perth Glory in proving he had received poor advice in his Socceroo selections for the Four Nations series this month. On the same night as Venables watched Perth Glory beat Marconi 2-1 in Sydney, the league's other outpost Brisbane Strikers were humiliating Venables' advisers with a convincing 3-nil win over league leaders Sydney United at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane.

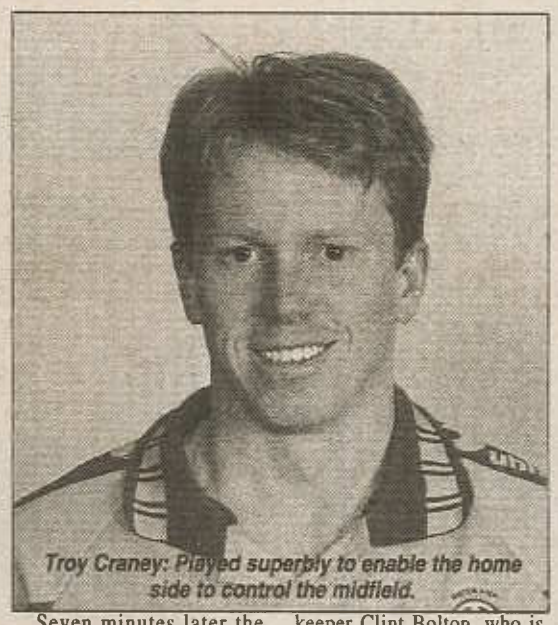
Both Perth Glory and Brisbane Strikers failed to gain one selection in Venables' 28-man squad which was mostly chosen on the advice of Venables' predecessor Eddie Thomson and assistant Raul Blanco.

To Venables and co, a crowd of13,121 might not seem very much, but it was a record eclipsing the previous largest Suncorp Stadium crowd of 8,900 in a city dominated in the media by Rugby League.

If there was a lesson the new "Oz Tel" must quickly learn, it's to at least move about the country and rely on his own judgement and not like Thomson who visited north only when pressured into it by the media.

The Strikers, who turn into the second round equal top with Sydney United, got off to a dream start after five minutes when Sydney United skipper Mark Babic was dispossessed in centre field by Strikers' nippy midfielder Jeromy Harris.

Harris showed blistering pace, running the ball 30 metres, before sending a pass into the box for Rod Brown who made no mistake with his shot after player-coach Frank Farina brilliantly took two defenders away with a dummy run.


Troy Craney: Played superbly to enable the home side to control the midfield.

Seven minutes later the league's leading scorer David Zdrilic found the net with a header but the goal was disallowed for offside.

Sydney United, who were struggling to control midfield against the speedier and more skilful Strikers, grafted their way back into the match, but were off target with two shots three minutes apart midway through the first half.

United Striker Ante Milicic faced up to an open goal before Strikers' skipper Alan Hunter dived in to clear with the loose ball falling to Ante Moric who blasted his shot over the crossbar.

Sydney United's best hope came on 31 minutes when defender Mark Rudan drove a header goalbound off a short corner only to be denied by a clearance off the line by Strikers midfielder Gary Phillips with keeper Graham Ross beaten. The second-choice custodian had another fine game tipping one shot from Zdrilic wide of the upright, and continues to keep out injured former Olyroo keeper Clint Bolton, who is due to make a return for their next home game.

Farina gave the Strikers much needed breathing space in the 33rd minute giving the homeside a 2-goal buffer going into the break. Phillips showed all his experience in midfield sending a ball through to Sean Cranney who sent a first time cross into Farina's path from close range. Farina, who only passed a fitness test during the pre-match warm-up, was tightly marked by Rudan before clumsily tripping over the ball and watching it roll in beside the upright to the amazement of keeper Zelko Kalac.

The only goal in the second half came a minute into stoppage time when replacement Mark Battistin drove home the third against a deflated United.

Farina praised his players, and the Brisbane public, after the match for providing an entertaining game.

"We expected to play well. Going into games like this with first playing second it's not hard to motivate players from both sides. From the first minute to the 90th minute we won all the individual battles and it was a fair result." Farina said.

"We can talk about national selections, but its already been named. But I still believe we have at least five players that could walk into that squad. However, its water under the bridge now.The squad's been named and you can't chop and change after the event."

Farina, who singled out Troy Cranney and Danny Wright for special mention, commended the Brisbane soccer public for turning out in force and hoped the trend continued.

Strikers: Ross, Hunter, Gwynne, Phillips, Farina, Wright, T Cranney, Brayshaw (Battistin 78), S Cranney (Tollenaere 64), Brown, Harris (Slater 64).
United: Kalac, Trajkovski, Kupresak, Babic, Marusic, Moric (Culina 46), Milicic (Markovac 46), Genc (Gibson 79), Zdrilic, Bilokapic, Rudan.

☆ ☆ ☆

Scorers: Brown (5), Farina (33), Battistin (90).
Yellow Cards: United: Babic (65), Moric (29).
Crowd: 13,121
Referee: G. Connolly
POY: 3-T Cranney (BS), 2-Wright (BS), 1-Rudan (SU).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2 .....Editorial & Match Report
3, 4, 5, 7 .....Ericsson Cup Match Reports
6.....Letters to the Editor
8, 10.....Around the Clubs
9.....Advertisements
11.....Results, table, fixtures
12 .....Bob Catlin & 200 game plaque
13 .....Abbas Saad in action
14, 15 .....World Results & Stories
16.....Pele Part 3
17 .....Rising Stars
18 .....Terry Venables Pictorial special
19 .....Women's Writes
20 .....South America
21-23 .....UK News & Stories

Front Page: .Anissa Tann — Darby (NSW) is headed by Lisa Dunne (Qld) on December 15, 1996.
Back:.....Supporters of Mohammedan sought help from sorcerers to defeat Abahani. It didn't work!

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS $130 OVERSEAS $180
Send to P.O. Box 146, Broadway, NSW 2007

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY
7-9 Garners Avenue, Marrickville 2204. Tel (02) 9560-3900. Fax (02) 9550-9332
Published every Tuesday by FL Press Pty Ltd. 1-9 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe NSW 2037

DISTRIBUTION
NSW/ACT: FLP Pty Ltd. 1-9 Glebe Pt Road, Glebe 2037 Tel: (02) 9660 2033
VICTORIA: FLP Pty Ltd. Unit 9, 405 Flemington Road, North Melbourne, 3051. Tel: (03) 9329-1636 Fax: (03) 9329-1342
QUEENSLAND: Queensland Newspaper Campbell St, Bowen Hills 4006 Tel: (07) 252-6011
SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Advertiser Newspaper Ltd. Waymouth St, Adelaide 5000 Tel: (08) 218-9329
WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Pan Hellenic Emporium, 67 James Street, Perth 6000 Tel: 328-4779

STAFF
EDITOR:.....Bob Brooks
CHIEF SUB EDITOR:.....Henry Wizgier
STAFF REPORTER:.....John Economos
LAYOUT:.....Karen Lucas McKenzie
TYPESETTING:.....Jodee Rogers
PHOTOGRAPHY:.....Jorge Gonzalez
.....Phone: 015 709-318
SCANDESK:.....Stewart Johnson
COLOUR SCANS:..... Bill Hawthorne
Robbie Hawthorne

CORRESPONDENTS
SYDNEY:.....Alistair Russell
MELBOURNE:.....Dwyght Tuffnell
NEWCASTLE.....Dane Skalte
QUEENSLAND:.....Glenn Davis
WOLLONGONG:.....Phil Murphy
WESTERN AUSTRALIA:.....Richard Kreider
SOUTH AUSTRALIA:.....Lance Librandi
WOMEN'S CORRESPONDENT:Janene Mar

ADVERTISING
Sydney: John Economos.... (02) 9560-3900
Brisbane: Glenn Davis 041 9727346
Melbourne Dwyght Tuffnell ...(03) 9329 1636
Recommended and maximum price ..$2.50

* All material appearing in Australian and British Soccer Weekly is copyright and reproduction in any form whatsoever is expressly forbidden without the written permission of the publisher. The publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, illustrations or photographic material.
◆ **Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 7 days PRIOR to issue date.**

PARRAMATTA CITY SPORTING CLUB INC
YOUTH LEAGUE
REQUIRE PLAYERS FOR TRAINING/TRIALS
U/16s
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
U/13s, U/14s, U/15s
MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS
START – 6.30PM SHARP
FROM MONDAY JANUARY 13
ERIC PRIMROSE RES
RYDALMERE
FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT STAN:
0411 870 663

PASCOE VALE SPORTSCENE
THE GENERAL SPORTS STORE SPECIALISING IN SOCCER
403 Bell Street, Pascoe Vale South. Ph: 03 9354-2791
CLUB DISCOUNTS on * Gear * Trophies * General Engraving & Printing
Sponsor of ABSW Player of the Year
SPORTSCENE

ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

WOLVES DEMOLISH FALCONS

Wollongong City 5 — Gippsland Falcons 2

By PHIL MURPHY

Wollongong had a few obstacles to overcome before doing a demolition job on Gippsland Falcons at Brandon Park on Friday night. The 5-2 scoreline was impressive but the Wolves were missing four regulars through injury. If that wasn't enough, they found themselves a goal down after just 90 seconds. However, they rattled home three goals to lead 3-1 after 18 minutes and looked like a class above the opposition.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos said after the game having the likes of goalkeeper Brett Hughes, defender Jason Connelly, midfielder Lupcho Naumovski and striker Tony Perinich injured should have made things very difficult.

"Fortunately we have plenty of depth and the boys showed that tonight," the Coach said. "The side I sent out delivered the goods and even the players who went off the bench played their part."

The Gippsland defence which held Brisbane scoreless a week earlier wilted under constant pressure. Coach Frank Arok said they allowed some silly goals but conceded Wollongong played very well.

Soon after the first goal, Gippsland striker Eddie Krncevic limped from the field with a hamstring strain. When Krncevic left the scene, Wollongong led 2-1, Alvin Ceccoli and Richard Lloyd having provided the goals.

A great team move in the 18th minute resulted in striker Nick Joseski heading home a Ceccoli cross then Wollongong went close to scoring three more before the break. With Sonny Sevin outstanding in the centre of midfield against his old club and celebrating his 100th league appearance, Wollongong went 4-1 up through Joseski. Gary van Egmond played a great ball through to the striker, who arrived in time to run it past goalkeeper Jim Kourtis and slot it into the open net.

Mark Foy scored for Gippsland during a 15 minute period in which they kept plenty of pressure on young goalkeeper Adam Brodbeck.

Back in the Wolves starting lineup, Sasho Dimoski scored number five with an overhead kick after replacements Michael Kariamis and Scott Chipperfield were involved in the lead up.

The Wolves are hoping to have Hughes back in goal when the teams meet again in Morwell on Saturday night. He has a hairline fracture to a bone in the foot and doctors haven't been able to say when he will be fit to play.

Nikolce Joseski: Scored with his head and his foot against the visitors.

Wollongong: Brodbeck, Ceccoli, Van Egmond, Horsley, Sevin, Reda (Kariamis 84), Harlock (Chipperfield 70), Joseski, Lloyd, Surjan (Bourke 77), Dimoski.

Gippsland: Kourtis, Marcina, Stergiopoulos, Palamaras, Giminez (Mitroulas 74), Foy, Krncevic (Wright 13), Duric, Bell (Seculic 62), Osman, Tricarico.

☆ ☆ ☆

Scorers:
Wollongong: Ceccoli (3), Lloyd (15), Joseski (18, 60), Dimoski (84)
Gippsland: Krncevic (2), Foy (62)
Yellow cards:
Wollongong: Horsley (15), Surjan (46), Chipperfield (80), Joseski (89).
Gippsland: Giminez (19), Stergiopoulos (30), Bell (30), Osman (45), Tricarico (46).
Referee: G Leverton.
Crowd: 5,462.
POY: 3-Sevin (W), 2-Van Egmond (W), 1-Reda (W).

Jim Kourtis: Powerless to stop Wolves goal rout.

SOCCER PROMOTIONS
Development Soccer Programs for
Junior Elite Players
* Improve your speed and precision of play
* Develop muscular strength & endurance
* Shape a professional attitude
All our instructors are Level 3, former NSL Players, PE Teachers & professional Fitness Instructors.
* Preparatory and High Performance Programs available from Under 7's to Youth & Senior Players.
* For bookings, brochure and further information telephone now!
* All sessions held at
Bentleigh Greens SC, Kingston Heath Reserve, Centre Dandenong Road (87 F2) Mon-Sun.
Enquiries welcome from players with ambition and drive as full commitment is required!
30 GLENDALE CRESCENT BERTWICK VIC 3806
Phone (03) 9705 2339 Mobile 015 507 125

Mark Read's Darwin All Sports
Sports betting on all major Aust. & International Sport
Ericsson Cup
Premier League
Division One
FA Cup and Coca-Cola Cup
Scottish Premier
Serie A and Coppa Italia
Darwin All Sports is open for business every day for all your betting needs - not only worldwide soccer but the Test and One Day Cricket, Tennis, Superbowl playoffs and many other sports.
Singles, h'cap betting and multiples always available
If you're serious about soccer there's only one place to call for all the latest soccer betting
All betting is tax free:— Bankcard, Mastercard & Visa Facilities Available ☆ For the latest odds check our Internet site: http://WWW.darwin-allsports.com.au
For more information and to open your account:—
Phone: 08 89 41 8330
Fax: 08 89 41 8339
You can e-mail us at support @darwin-allsports.com.au or Mail to P.O. Box 3325 Darwin, NT 0801, AUSTRALIA
Licensed by the government of the Northern Territory, AUSTRALIA

ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

GLORY'S MAGNIFICENT VICTORY

Marconi Fairfield 1 — Perth Glory 2

By JOHN ECONOMOS

Perth Glory, with a magnificent display of well organised unit play both in defence and attack, completely overwhelmed a disjointed Marconi 2-1 last Saturday night at Marconi Stadium where Australia's new World Cup manager, Terry Venables was an interested spectator.

A goal in each half by Glory's explosive paced striker Vas Kalogeracos sealed Marconi's fate to give the West Australians their third win in seven away matches.

Glory shocked Marconi as early as the ninth minute when Marconi's international Craig Foster, surprisingly playing at right back, was dispossessed by Kalogeracos who sped away to blast under Catlin and into the target.

Four minutes later Marconi's best performer, left midfielder Luke Casserley, drove high and well on target but Glory's goalkeeper Vince Matassa tipped the ball magnificently over the bar.

Marconi were completely rattled by Perth's well organised midfield of Vladimir Beretovac, skipper Gareth Naven, Paul McVittie and Scott Miller that had the home side at sixes and sevens.

However Marconi managed to pull back an equaliser a minute before the break through striker and Marconi captain Andy Harper.

Foster combined with Sean Babic in a one-two for the former to blast at the target which was only parried by Matassa. However the lurking Harper was perfectly placed to smash a rising shot in at the right post.

Three minutes after the break link man, Paul Strudwick saw his goal bound header nodded way by Marconi's central marker Dominic Longo.

In the 66th minute the boys from Perth regained the lead and again it was that man Kalogeracos.

Dynamic fellow striker Bobby Despotovski fired a through ball for Kalogeracos to latch onto. The AIS graduate finished off clinically from the right side despite Marconi's goalkeeper Bobby Catlin getting a hand to the missile.

Glory's sweeper, Vinko Buljubasic raided up field spraying wide to his right again to pick up Kalogeracos, but this time the lethal marksman saw luck desert him as his shot stretched the outside of the side netting.

Perth's central marker, Craig Naven (twin brother to captain and midfielder Gareth) did a marvellous job in tracking Marconi's mobile striker Babic, whilst the other central marker Gavin Wilkinson also was valiant in his defensive duties.

Three minutes into stoppage time Babic from the right side line swung a magnificent cross into the box looking for Harper on the back post. Although Harper climbed to power a header well on target he was denied joy by the diving Matassa who made a magnificent block.

An elated Perth coach, Gary Marocchi evaluated after the match, "We put pressure on them forcing Marconi into errors and I sincerely hope that from now on we will not be taken lightly. Even when we played against Sydney United, who I rate the best team in the league, we never stopped pushing forward.

Vas Kalogeracos: Took two of his three opportunities with great precision.

"Marconi's crosses were poor and they could not get behind our defence. I felt Craig Naven was tight on Babic but overall it was an excellent team effort even though we missed the services of Dale Wingell with his powerful thrusts down the right side."

In contrast Marconi's boss, Manfred Schaefer could only lament, "They were very hungry but in all reality their two chances we gave them and they certainly didn't attack as well as they have done previously. They fought for everything and their keeper made two great saves from shots by Casserly and Hristodoulou."

Marconi: Catlin, Stanton (Robertson 78), Bingley, Casserly, Harper, Foster (Hristodoulou 72), Maloney, Longo, Babic, Awaritefe, Zoric.
Glory: Matassa, Buljubasic, C Naven, Wilkinson, Beretovac (Ithier 46), G Naven, Miller, McVittie, Strudwick, Despotovski, Kalogeracos.

Scorers: Marconi: Harper (44). Glory: Kalgeracos (9, 66).
Yellow Cards: Glory: Wilkinson (32), Matassa (85).

Referee: S Micallef
Crowd: 5,419
POY: 3-Craig Naven (PG), 2-Matassa (PG), 1-Kalogeracos (PG)

BREAKERS HOLD ZEBRAS

Adelaide City 2 — Newcastle Breakers 2

By LANCE LIBRANDI

Energy-sapping hot conditions still saw an exciting game with both sides sharing the points at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday night.

The Topper Breakers came to Adelaide with a reputation for gunning down the top clubs, following a victory over Sydney United and a draw against Olympic in recent weeks. Adelaide City Zebras, on a roll and undefeated for five rounds were looking for an early advantage before their return trip to Newcastle next week.

Both sides started slowly in the uncomfortable humid weather, John Gibson opening the account in the sixth minute with a long-distance shot that flew well over the crossbar.

Newcastle tested Jason Petkovic for the first time eight minutes later when a cross from Troy Halpin was met by the head of Lian McGuire, but the attempt was turned around the post by the City custodian.

Two more quick chances to the Zebras began in the 17th minute, when a Mark Yates cross was nodded back into the box by Dino Mennillo, but Gibson's header again went over the bar. A minute later Mark Brazzale tried his luck from well outside the penalty area, but his dipping shot did not come down enough to trouble Liam Baker.

In the 20th minute, Adelaide broke through to grab the lead. A long ball from Angie Costanzo found Michael Musitano on the right. His measured cross was sweetly met by Gibson who angled his header past Baker to score. The Zebras nearly doubled their lead in the 32nd when Michael Brooks ran on to a long pass, with Baker bearing down on him. His attempted lob cleared the keeper and the goal in an effort that should have been tucked away.

Five minutes later, the home side were to rue that miss,when Newcastle capitalised on a rare mistake by Milan Ivanovic. The elegant defender slipped while turning Jason Bennett, who won the ball and crossed to an unmarked McGuire. He made no mistake, slotting his shot past the extended Petkovic to level the score.

The second half began cautiously until the 52nd minute, when Musitano made a great run up the right flank before cutting inside towards goal. His accurate cross was volleyed first time by Brooks, the hard finish giving Baker no chance. A minute later, saw more interplay between the City strikers, with Musitano back-heeling to Brooks who shot wide.

Topper Breakers did not lie down though, and their counter-attacking was rewarded on the hour, when Halpin received the ball on the edge of the penalty area and struck it towards goal. The shot deflected off Alex Tobin and curled over the stranded Petkovic to again level the scoreline.

The Zebras had more chances, none better than in the 75th minute, when Musitano put a fancy flick behind him to Brooks again, who could not get his attempt past the onrushing Baker in goal.

John Gibson scored Zebras first and played essential game.

The best chance for the Breakers to steal the points came in the 88th minute, when a free kick flew across the goal area and was headed by Bennett, only to see the ball cannon into the left post and bounce back out, much to the relief of the Zebras. A last minute headed attempt by Gibson was pulled in by the keeper, before referee Wayne Dade whistled for the end of the match, both teams sharing the honours before the return game next Friday in front of visiting spectator Terry Venables.

Adelaide City: Petkovic, Armour, Yates, Ivanovic, Tobin, Costanzo, Mennillo, Gibson, Musitano (Barbaro 81), Brooks, Brazzale (Dodd 77).

☆ ☆ ☆

Newcastle Breakers: Baker, Pryce, Sprod, Ironside, Thomas, Halpin, McManus, Roberts, Bennett, Austin, McGuire.

Scorers:
Zebras: Gibson (20), Brooks (52).
Breakers: McGuire (37), Halpin (60).

☆ ☆ ☆

Yellow Cards: Zebras: Mennillo (15), Dodd (88).
Crowd: 3,365.
Referee: W Dade.
POY: 3-Halpin (NB), 2-Gibson (AC), 1-Armour (AC).

COSMOS HOLD KNIGHTS TO DRAW

Melbourne Knights 1 — Canberra Cosmos 1

By JOHN RIGAS

A goal down at half-time and goal keeper Tony Giannasca sent off, a spirited Canberra Cosmos fought back to gain a draw against a disappointing Melbourne Knights at Knights Park on Sunday.

The turning point in the game came in the 47th minute when Canberra goalkeeper Giannasca was given his marching orders for a deliberate hand ball just outside the area when he stopped Melbourne Knights striker Ice Kutlesovski from scoring a certain goal after he was put through by Ivan Duzel.

Knights coach Ian Dobson had to reshuffle his team. Sweeper Joe Simunic was out, suspended so Andrew Marth was pushed back from midfield to fill in for Simunic. The opposite is going to occur next week when Simunic returns as Marth will be missing due to injury, according to coach Dobson.

"Marth has a thigh strain and will not play, each game he plays it gets worse," explained Dobson.

The game was a boring affair with minimal chances created, the 35 degree heat was a major factor and many of the player could not cope with those conditions. The Knights took the lead right on the stroke of half-time when strikers Kutlesovski and Adrian Cervinski combined, with Kutlesovski providing the pass to Cervinski who avoided the charging Giannasca to slot the ball into an empty net.

Canberra coach Mike Lyons said after the game;

"In the first-half we played very well, only in injury time we fell off a little. We created more chances also."

Two minutes into the second-half was the turning point of the game when Giannasca was sent-off and substitute David Milin went into goal to replace Rodrigo Moreno.

Melbourne Knights only tested Milin once when Ante Kovacevic took a long range shot late in the second-half, Milin handled the shot like a real pro.

Things got worse for the Knights when defender Zoran Markovski was stretchered off in the 61st minute, he appeared to collapse from the effects of the heat.

The equalising goal arrived in the 83rd minute when Canberra youngster Vince Grella provided a cross to captain Marko Perinovic whose looping header caught Didulica out of position. The fact that the home team produced only two corners for the whole game, says much for Canberra's determination.

Cosmos has to find a new goalkeeper for the return game next week as first choice keeper Danny Milosevic is with the young Socceroos while Tony Giannasca is suspended and third choice Ben Harris in the USA.

Marko Perinovic: Levelled the scores late in the game.

Boss Mike Lyons was a satisfied man after the game by stating, "The attitude was tremendous, my lads deserve a great deal of credit, we were also very competitive."

Knights coach Dobson was not so happy. "We went down to 10 men not them, we dropped our heads, it was very disappointing, I was disappointed with five players in particular I thought they could have done much more."

Knights: Didulica, D Cervinski, Z Markovski (Vojtek 61), Marth, Lapsansky, Kutlesovski, Pondeljak (Nastevski 60), Kovacevic, Duzel (Trupkovic 85), A Cervinski, Banini.
Cosmos: Giannasca, Dee, Kelly, Armstrong (Baxter 86), Perinovic, Koch, Mazis, Sorras, Juric, Moreno (Milin 47), Grella.

☆ ☆ ☆

Scorers:
Knights: A Cervinski (45).
Cosmos: Perinovic (83).
Yellow Cards:
Knights: Kovacevic (54), Kutlesovski (86).
Cosmos: Kelly (11), Armstrong (76).
Red Card: Cosmos: Giannasca (47).
Referee: E Lennie.
Crowd: 2,980
POY: 3-Banini (MK), 2-Perinovic (CC), 1-Marth (MK).

Parramatta Eagles Jnr Soccer

1997 Registration Days
TEAMS FROM U6 TO ALL AGE & LADIES
9am-2pm Saturday February 1, 8, 15, 22
— ALL PLAYERS WELCOMED —
Gradings every Tues & Thurs in February
5.30pm-8.30pm ATHOL BARNES RES Cnr Erie St & Wellington Rd., Sth Granville.
Coaches Required
For teams U6 to All Age & Ladies
Applications to be sent to:
Junior Soccer Administrator
PO Box 64, PO Plumpton 2761.
For further information phone:—
DANIEL ZAHRA 9819 6242
STEVE PULIS 9832 8729 or 014 423 134
CARMEN SHERRI (Reg.) 0412 002 184
or Grounds Ph: **9892 3478**
at the above times

ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

ZEBRAS DEFY PUMAS FOR DRAW

SYDNEY UNITED 1 — ADELAIDE CITY 1

By STUART JONES

In a game of missed opportunities for Sydney United Pumas it was Adelaide City Zebras who smashed and grabbed a point at Edensor Park on Sunday evening.

United continually controlled possession but failed to convert that pressure. Instead it was Adelaide City who made the most of their opportunity and scored first. A quick break by the Zebras seemed the only way they would score and so it was.

In the 41st minute a counter attack saw Dino Menillo with possession on the half way line. Menillo played a great through ball to Bradley Hassell who promptly ran around Mark Rudan and then wrong footed the advancing Zelijko Kalac to put the ball into the back of the net.

At half time the talk was about how Sydney United could get past the outstanding defence of Adelaide City. For the first couple of minutes after the break it looked as if the home side had found the key as both David Cvetko, starting his second game of the season, and the outstanding Kresimir Marusic came close to unlocking the door in front of goal. Again and again opportunities arose for the Pumas but either good defence or bad luck conspired to deny them the equaliser. To their credit the Zebras were playing a solid game and pushing United players off the ball at crucial moments, as has been the case in the last couple of rounds when teams have taken on United.

Twenty minutes from time Aytec Genc came on and straight away United played the game with much more width. It was this width that helped lead to the second goal of the game. Four minutes after the arrival of Genc, a United quick break saw Marusic play a ball through to Ante Milicic who crossed the ball low across the goal mouth. Leading goal scorer David Zdrilic ran over the ball but City defender Bradley Armour deflected it into the back of his own net trying to clear the ball from danger. It was a cruel blow for Armour who had had a great game with his penetrating runs down the left flank for City and his solid play in defence.

After equalising Sydney United fell back into the trap of trying to beat Adelaide through the centre of their defence and found that the door was still bolted shut from front on. To their credit United did not panic and the players fought until the end. However, Adelaide were professional enough to sit back and accept the point from the game.

Afterwards Sydney United coach Branco Cullina was philosophical about the result

"At this stage of the season a point is better than nothing, it takes two teams to tango and only one side wanted to play flowing football tonight. It's been a tough couple of weeks but we will get through it."

Bradley Armour: Played well in the Zebras defence.

Sydney United: Kalac Trajkovski, Babic, Enes, Marusic, Moric (Gene 69), Milicic, Cvetko (Markovac 57), Zdrilic, Bilokapic, Rudan.

☆☆☆

Adelaide City: Petkovic, Armour (Brazzale 85), Yates, Ivanovic, Tobin, Costanzo, Hassell, Menillo, Gibson, Musitano, Brooks (Dodd 72)

Scorers: United - Own Goal (74). Zebras - Hassell (41).
Yellow Cards: United: Babic (9) Enes 94(), Marusic (26), Moric (56). Zebras: Armour (66).

☆☆☆

Referee: Brazalle
Crowd: 5,195
POY: 3-Zdrilic (SU) 2-Trajkovski (SU) 1-Armour (AC).

SYDNEY UNITED V BRISBANE STRIKERS

SUNDAY 12 JANUARY 1997

PARRAMATTA STADIUM
KICK OFF 7.00PM
YOUTH LEAGUE 4.30PM

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FROM ARIA AWARD WINNERS "KULCHA"

GOLDEN BOOT COMPETITION
$1,600 TO BE WON ON THE DAY

Sydney United is Proudly Sponsored by PUMA & BOKA Windows

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT PROPOSED

Dear Sir,

The recent agreement between the Players' Union and Soccer Australia appears to have paved the way for increased remuneration and even eventual professionalism.

All this is well and good if standards improve. By this I mean not only playing performance but behaviour as well. With the increased benefits should be an acceptance of a player's heightened responsibility as a public performer — anything less would be to betray this generation of players as selfish, arrogant, ill-disciplined, untrustworthy and cheats.

Harsh? Well events in the last couple of months seem to indicate that is exactly what some are.

Frank Farina has the gall to claim he has been persecuted when Johnny Warren highlighted his preparedness to, at best grossly exaggerate, but most likely cheat to gain advantage. What a great role model you are Frank! Anyone would think you didn't have the ability to play the game fairly and well. Such behaviour belongs in a children's pantomine not as an immature expression of an adult's desire to win at all costs.

As someone who has followed your career, after watching you from your debut [illegible] Canberra, you have lost [illegible]d thousands of other [illegible]minded fans. You have [illegible] no doubt, severely [illegible]rassed the many decent [illegible]bane supporters.

[illegible] course Frank isn't the [illegible]prima donna. Francis [illegible]itefe is prepared to taunt [illegible] who are sent off and [illegible]uently spends more time [illegible]g than doing.

[illegible]n there have been a [illegible]er of deliberate hand-[illegible] incidents, such as Ross [illegible] handling the ball into [illegible]et, while Warren Spink [illegible] have handled the ball [illegible]re scoring against the Knights.

[illegible]en there is aggression. [illegible]by Despotovski's [illegible]nt head-butt against the [illegible]ights last weekend [illegible]/12/96) was shown as part [illegible] a few highlights on the [illegible]00pm Sunday ABCTV [illegible]ews in at least NSW and the [illegible]CT.

The next day (Monday) I [illegible]ng the Perth Glory office, [illegible]plained that I was a paid-up [illegible]ember of their Supporters [illegible]lub (and a fan of [illegible]espotovski's play), but [illegible]ked if they would be taking [illegible]ction against the player.

I was told they hadn't seen [illegible]he incident (though would have after the Highlights show), but if they did take action everything would be "in house" and nothing announced publicly. Great! So everyone now knows that what Despotovski did was wrong, but will believe that Perth condone that sort of behaviour because he will be seen to go unpunished. Watch the head-butt make an appearance at junior games next season.

My team, Canberra Cosmos, has the most pitiful record however. Teams like Brisbane and Sydney United can stand perfectly still for the national anthem, but the Cosmos — no way — in fact they have never done so. Invariably at least four players will be twisting, jumping up and down, bending down, shaking legs or trying to talk to the player next to them.

So what does Mike Lyons or the Cosmos management do about this? Nothing! No wonder the team are bottom of the table, when even children in the crowd show greater discipline and self-control. All these incidents bring the game into disrepute and send the wrong message out to fans, who particularly if they are young, idolise and imitate the players.

Such transgressions are not isolated — we all know that — they are symptomatic of a general malaise and acceptance of lower standards within the game (and society). Players lack self-discipline and most coaches lack the courage or will to insist on higher standards. Club officials are unwilling to take action — it is much easier to sit back in an executive box and pretend things never happened.

What is desperately needed is a Code of Conduct specifically 'outlawing' the incidents mentioned and others that impinge on the honesty, decency and discipline that should be associated with the game. It should be formulated by the Players' Union and read and signed by all players and coaches.

To ensure that the Code has teeth a three-person Standards Committee should be set up to review videos (all games are filmed) and determine punishment — fine and/or suspension — above and beyond what the referee might rule.

Only then will we be able to once again call this 'the beautiful game', safe in the knowledge that future generations will imitate its skills, not its ugliness.

Chris Kunz,
HIGGINS, ACT.

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.

The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY
PO BOX 155,
MARRICKVILLE
NSW 2204
Fax: (02) 9550-9332

Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

KAKISTOCRACY A NON-SEQUITUR

Dear Sir,

It was interesting to see the fresh loaf thrown out before it had been baked. I refer of course to the article courtesy of John Kelly regarding the new Board of Commissioners at the Victorian Soccer Federation (ABSW 17/12/96).

Soccer followers will be aware of the overwhelming vote by delegates to endorse the move from a Board of Management structure to a Board of Commissioners. That vote took place on 2nd December, with the election of new commissioners taking place on Thursday 12th, December.

Mr Kelly's article suggesting that the whole process has been little more than a rearrangement of deck chairs (on a sinking Titanic?) is a nonsense. To say that it is an oligocratic kakistocracy (!) is a non-sequitur. Now throw away the dictionary and I'll outline why the Victorian Soccer Federation is in good hands and is back in the winner's circle.

The new Board was designed to be a truer representative of all Soccer in Victoria. Voting delegates grasped the opportunity for new figureheads with fervour, wisely voting in seven excellent representatives. Around the commission table these men form a professional and intelligent cross section of Soccer. This is not the powerful few governing the masses. Already, without the two non-elected commissioners, the new commission is a broad interest group with clear direction. It will be a pleasure to work as CEO for this commission in strengthening and building soccer in Victoria.

To allay fears of single issue representation, let me give you an overview of the Commission's combined interests and experience. Professionally, Joe Brondolino, Vasko Stojcevski, Jason Hoar, Manny Galanos, Phil Randall, Tony Dunkerley and Sam David, have backgrounds in legal, accounting, marketing, senior corporate management and property services.

Players, officials and supporters can take heart from the huge diversity of soccer experience now represented on the VSF Commission. The Commission can cite top level experience in this field as referee, junior and elite squad coach, women's soccer management, championship club administration, and tribunal membership and chair. These men have relinquished any official roles at club level and are now committed to the sound administration and development of Soccer in Victoria.

Early in 1997, I'll write to advise you of the commission's new strategies to be aopted and acted upon over the next year. These will take into account the interests of the entire Victorian Soccer community.

Geoff Miles,
Chief Executive Officer,
VICTORIAN SOCCER FEDERATION

(Kakistocracy/Non Sequitur: rule by the least competent people/does not follow.)

RAIDERS THE LAST CHANCE FOR CAPITAL

Dear Sir,

With the seeming imminent demise of the Cosmos on financial grounds, Canberra may once again find itself without a major football team to service its population. This would be a crucial blow to the thousands of junior Soccer players in the ACT that deserve a national league team to develop their skills enabling them to take the step into the international arena. Also for the fans that deserve to see the best Australian players week in, week out. With the news that Canberra has won the right to host Soccer for the 2000 Olympic Games, it is vital that there is a national league team that can take advantage of the boom that may well come from them.

It seems that like many sports, the idea of a multi-sport club is the only way a Soccer club can run profitably and professionally in the capital. Like the Canterbury Bulldogs link with UTS Olympic, Collingwood Magpies link with the Warrios and now the Hunter Mariners link with the Breakers, sport in general would gain from a Cosmos-Canberra Raiders merger that could be beneficial to both sports.

For Soccer a merger or take over by the Raiders should be a priority as the extra promotional skills, increased membership and capital to purchase quality players through a relationship with the ACT's top sporting identity would be invaluable, while for the Raiders a merger would hold even greater benefits as it would allow it's members to see football all year round as compared to their current 12 matches.

The potential profits on the transfer market from selling talented players overseas could be very lucrative, particularly with the fact that many of the country's best juniors are in Canberra with the AIS. On the other hand the smaller outlay of financing a Soccer team would appeal to the Raiders particularly as a team could be financed for less than what would be paid for even a couple of international league players.

Furthermore due to the Olympic Soccer tournament the Raiders home ground, Bruce Stadium has been granted a substantial upgrade. With the possible decline in non-Olympic sports such as League and Union due to the popularity of the Olympics, being involved in one of the most prominent Olympic sports could be attractive. However of most importance for the Raiders is that being involved with the World Game will give the club international exposure, which they currently lack.

A link with Asia is crucial in the developing global village and for the super-league movement as a whole, which is desperate to be a world wide sport, the success of these ambitions may depend upon its relationship with Soccer.

For these reasons the Raiders and Soccer Australia should discuss plans for a merger leading to a Super Canberra Club by the time the Olympics come around which will benefit not just Canberra but the World Game as a whole.

So let's get on with forming Canberra Raiders SC.

Steven Anderson
BARDWELL PARK, NSW.

EIGHT TEAMS MAXIMUM

Dear Sir,

I couldn't agree more with Henry Wizgier's story on page eleven of the December 24th edition, about one club per city with a maximum of eight teams for a professional competition in this country.

I'd go one step further and drop both Newcastle and Wollongong. Neither have any hope of attracting a 20,000 average home crowd let alone 30 or 40,000 like the big capital cities have a chance of doing. The fact is both the steel cities are Rugby League strongholds with less ethnic migrants living there on a percentage of population to the big capital cities.

Newcastle and surrounding areas have only one tenth of the population of Sydney's metropolitan area which means only a 4 or 5,000 crowd maximum at any game if we take into account that Sydney only has 40,000 maximum Soccer fans according to Henry's argument..

Wollongong's position is similar or even worse if you are looking at expanding your audience of spectators because its population with surrounding areas is only half that of Newcastle so once again no chance of an average 20,000 home crowd.

The eighth team should be either an extra New Zealand team from Wellington or Christchurch to spread their National team players around or a team in Townsville which is over 1,000 kilometres from Brisbane. A team there would draw support from all over North Queensland which has over half a million people north of the Tropic of Capricorn.

If the eight teams I mentioned are not viable then Canberra should be dropped as well (because of its small Soccer population) and then be left with only the six teams. These should then join with South East Asian cities to form a professional league of ten or twelve teams until the game is followed wholey by the mainstream public.

Then perhaps it can revert back to an Australasian Soccer League competition in the future when the time is right for the smaller provincial cities to join in.

How that can be done or achieved is anybodys guess. Either a breakaway league like Super League has done with Rugby League, or a new competition to start all over again from scratch drawing on the best players in the country and overseas. However it is done it's got to happen, because just like Henry says in his article and Michael Cockerill has said in the Sydney Morning Herald, you cannot have top quality professional Soccer in this country with fourteen teams which will increase to fifteen next season with the addition of Carlton (unless one is dropped).

The ball is in David Hill's court to try and work out how it can be done.

Dominic Scullino,
HELENSVALE, QLD.

"Good Heavens, Madge! It's this kind of thing that gives the game a bad name."

DULWICH HILL SOCCER CLUB

NSW STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2
REQUIRE PLAYERS FOR

1st Grade
Under 21s
Under 18s

TRAINING/TRIALS
START: 6.00PM
MONDAY-WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY
STEEL PARK, ILLAWARRA ROAD, MARRICKVILLE

FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT
MICHAEL
0412 076 212

ALSO REQUIRE JUNIORS
Under 12 Under 14
Under 13 Under 15
Under 16

ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

SHARKS MAUL OLYMPIC

Sydney Olympic 1 — By JOHN ECONOMOS — **West Adelaide 4**

West Adelaide Sharks needed less than an hour to annihilate an erratic UTS Olympic by four goals to one last Sunday night at Belmore Oval. This continued last week's home success when they perhaps surprisingly tossed Marconi.

Head-shaven, but with a hair-raising performance, Adelaide's lanky striker Hamilton Thorp, scored one, earned a penalty and set up the last goal to send Olympic hurtling to their second heaviest but first home defeat of the season.

Midfielder Nathan Day engineered the first goal for Adelaide when he rounded Olympic's free-back Milan Blagojevic in the 22nd minute out on the left. Day fired in a perfect flat cross to the goal area for the alert Thorp to slide in baseball-style to knock in past goalkeeper Anthony Franken.

A shocked Olympic stung back with a good chance in the 34th endeavouring to 'balance the books'. Striker Alistair Edwards whipped in a cross from the right for fellow-striker Kris Trajanovski, but before 'Traja' could reach the cross from point-blank range, a desparate, but great, clearing volley by right midfielder Alex Castro staved off the glaring danger.

Olympic's left midfielder Carlos Gonzalez, in the 36th minute pumped into the box a diagonal through ball for Norman Tome. Tome intercepted the pass with his left boot and fired in a rising drive into the target just under the horizontal for the equaliser to send Olympic's fans into a frenzy.

Gonzales had a late call up to Australia's Youth team and flew out yesterday for Tahiti.

Olympic's joy was short lived as seconds later, at the other end, the heroic Castro quickly regained Adelaide's lead. Latching onto a long ball fired wide by playmaker Ross Aloisi, Castro sliced past central defender Davie Barrett to hammer home from the right.

Inspired by their lead at the break, the Sharks mobile midfield quintet of Castro, Aloisi, Corey Artone, Day and Jamie Perin ripped into Olympic with new found confidence. It seemed like it was only a matter of time before more goals would rain into Franken's net.

Seven minute after the break goal number three was on its way from the penalty spot. Thorp, as he galloped into Olympic's box was fouled by Scott Baillie for referee Matthew Breeze to point to the spot. Skipper and sweeper Robbie Hooker easily converted, sending Franken the wrong way.

The visitors wanted more, and in the 53rd minute their dynamic marksman Jimmy Tsekinis put away their fourth following a throw-in. Thorp on the near post back headed for Tsekinis to nod inside the frame.

The phlegmatic Adelaide coach Adrian Sandtrac would only remark, "We played tight as a unit with all my players giving their maximum, forcing me to use all my reserves late in the game. It was a great result for us but we still have a job ahead of us. Beating Marconi last week did us an immeasurable amount of good after coming off a shocking run, but now we must do it again against Olympic on Sunday at Hindmarsh".

Ross Aloisi: Pick of a victorious West Adelaide Sharks team.

UTS Olympic: Franken: Bove, (Meredith 46) Barrett, Baillie, Blagojevic, Ciantar: Tome (Augerinos 77), Tsekenis, Gonzalez (Angelovski 80): Edwards, Trajanovski.
West Adelaide: Slager, Kokkinoplitis, Hooker: Castro, Aloisi, Artone, Day (Pezos 87), Perin (Cardozo 71); Thorp (Cutillo 80), Tsekinis.
Scorers: Olympic: Tome (36). Sharks: Thorp (22), Castro (37), Hooker (52 pen), Tsekinis (53).
Yellow Cards: Olympic: Barrett (6), Edwards (8), Baillie (89). Sharks: Perin (55).
Referee: M.Breeze.
Crowd: 5,249
POY: 3-Aloisi (W.A.), 2-Thorp (W.A.) ,1-Castro (W.A.).

LAKERS STIFLE WARRIORS CHALLENGE

South Melbourne 4 — By DWYGHT TUFFNELL — **Collingwood Warriors 0**

South Melbourne triumphed in the big Melbourne derby in sweltering heat at the Lakeside Stadium on Sunday, winning 4-0 against a demoralised Collingwood, which has not won since Round Four.

12,562 fans turned up in 39 degree heat to see the home side put on one of their best performances of the season.

Collingwood has just a week to recover from the mauling before South visit Victoria Park, keen to follow up with another victory. They have a lot of work to do during the week, their defence was again plundered as goals came easily for the Lakers.

They did it, though, without New Zealand international, Vaughan Coveny, who was injured in a strong tackle with Goran Lozanovski and went off in the seventh minute. Warren Spink replaced him and scored the opening goal in the 28th minute. Ivan Kelic, who had a hand in all four goals, received a cross from Paul Trimboli, before laying the ball off for Spink to beat Frank Juric at the near post. The celebrations went a bit over the top and Spink required three stitches to a cut forehead after colliding with Trimboli's teeth.

The Warriors had their best chance of the game in first half injury time, but Kimon Taliadoros blew the opportunity to score against his former club after Brian MacNicol had picked him out with a perfect cross.

Then immediately at the other end more Collingwood defensive madness nearly presented a goal for Spink who wasted a chance to add another goal after Joe Vrkic had let a Steve Panopoulos cross bounce over his head straight at the feet of Spink.

South got the second goal they needed nine minutes into the second period with a move started and finished by Trimboli.The Socceroo midfielder passed to Spink who found Kelic and the big strikers low cross was side footed home by Trimboli.

Kelic thought he had scored in the 75th minute when Juric couldn't hold his header. Spink was the first to react and bundled the ball over the line despite a late lunge by Juric to redeem himself.

Souths fourth goal was the best of the match. Michael Petkovic's long throw found Jason Polak by himself in the centre circle, Polak then ran down the right and crossed to Kelic who beat both Vrkic and Alan Scott in the air and flicked to Daniel Allsopp who volleyed in from close range. South could have made the scoreline even more emabarrassing with David Clarkson hitting the post from 30 yards.

"With the conditions as they were, the fact that we were the fitter side told in the end," said Lakers coach Angie Postecoglou.

"I felt that if we could get a goal or two we would get right on top of them." Postecoglou referred to the strength in South Melbourne's squad.

"I take off Vaughan Coveny and I didn't have to think twice about it because I've got Warren Spink.

"The way the other results have gone, we've only just held our ground so we've got to go to Victoria Park next week and get a result and make sure we're in a good position when the break comes".

Warren Spink: Came on as sub, scored two, and was himself subbed.

Lakers: Petkovic, Orlic, Kuzmanovic, Polak, Panopoulos, Coveny (Spink 7 - Allsopp 76), Trimboli (Petersen 75), Iosifidis, Clarkson, Kelic, De Amicis.

☆ ☆ ☆

Warriors: Juric, Talladira, Fak, Vrkic, Scott, Silic (Boutsianis 64), MacNicol, Tapai, Lozanovski, Taliadoros, Vlahos.

Scorers: Lakers: Spink (28, 75), Trimboli (54), Allsopp (83).
Yellow Cards: Lakers: Iosifidis (62). Warriors: Lozanovski (34), Taliadoros (35), Fak (56).

☆ ☆ ☆

Referee: M Shield.
Crowd: 12,562.
POY: 3-Kelic (SM), 2-Clarkson (SM), 1-Trimboli (SM).

START YOUR OWN
SOCCER CLUB
★ ☆ ★
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ARE INVITED FROM ANY GROUP WISHING TO PLAY AMATEUR SOCCER IN METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE COMPETITIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN 19 DIVISIONS ON SUNDAYS BOTH AM AND PM. CLUBS FROM INDUSTRY, EDUCATION INSTITUTES, REGIONAL CLUBS & ETHNIC SOCIAL CLUBS CURRENTLY PLAY IN THE COMPETITIONS
FOR ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL:—
THE AMATEUR SOCCER FEDERATION OF VICTORIA ON
(03) 9528 2955

AROUND THE CLUBS

THE COLLINGWOOD "COLLIWOBBLES"

By DWYGHT TUFFNELL

When the Collingwood Football Club are going through a bad patch it is called the 'Colliwobbles'. The Collingwood Warriors Soccer Club presently have a major case of them.

After a good start to the Ericsson Cup campaign they have begun a gradual slide down the ladder and the attendances at Victoria Park, in recent weeks, have been dismal. Only a bumper opening day crowd has lifted their total attendance to just over 30,000 in six home games. The rescheduled round three game, at home to UTS Olympic, would not have drawn more than 1,000 people, despite the official attendance of over 2,000.

The Warriors said that on the back of their round one success against the Melbourne Knights, that they could expect 20,000 to turn up for the Olympic game.

It was subsequently deferred due to the Australia — Tahiti games and not played until Monday the 23rd of December, just two days before Christmas Day.

It is such a problem for the Warriors because they apparently need between 5-7,000 turning up every home game just to break even. President Angelo Bouzis and Vice President Jack Dardalis have been on Greek radio station 3XY Hellas asking the Greek community to support the club. They also wrote a letter to every Greek newspaper with the same motives.

The letter said that if the Warriors didn't attract sufficient crowds, then they would come under close scrutiny from Soccer Australia and may even find themselves out of the Ericsson Cup.

The marriage between Collingwood and Heidelberg United is seen by some of the Heidelberg supporters as a different club, so they don't go and watch them, hence the appeals of messrs Bouzis and Dardalis. Most Collingwood Football people are interested in the Soccer club but don't support them in any way. Some attend games, especially the first match, but most haven't been back. Despite this, Collingwood FC is set to increase its activity in the club with more members of its board to join the Warriors. Currently three CFC members are involved with the Warriors. Kevin Rose is the Club's chairman whilst Peter Scully and Mick Lynn have seats on the board. There has been trouble at board level too, with one meeting reportedly ending with members having disagreements.

The shirts too, are set to change with the splashes of yellow, Heidelberg's colour, being shelved for the black and white stripes of the Collingwood Football Club.

It all started like some kind of fairytale for the Warriors. They won the pre-season Johnnie Walker Cup with a side put together in two weeks that looked like it had been together for years. But since then, things have gone horribly wrong.

A succession of draws ended with their first defeat, at home to the lowly Gippsland Falcons. They then lost the next three, all comprehensively, including the 7-0 hiding they copped from a rampant Sydney United led by David Zdrilic with four goals. Collingwood's defence in that game was a shambles.

Coach Zoran Matic has been continually fiddling with his last line in order to find a perfect balance. He still has not found it. In that Sydney United game he gambled with two new defenders, Ukrainian import Alex Pryhodko and Dejan Kaplanovic on loan from Wollongong City. Kaplanovic was sent straight back to Wollongong after that game whilst Pryhodko has not settled well, playing only three games, and was sent off against the Brisbane Strikers.

Pryhodko has proved to be something of a headache for Matic and the Warriors. He was delayed by red tape arriving in Australia and had language problems in his first game playing at sweeper.

Youngster Leigh Tsoumerkas returned from a lengthy lay off from injury for the Adelaide City game. He was forced to switch from left back to sweeper after Rick Cerracchio, unwittingly, got himself red carded. Tsoumerkas had a shocker at sweeper, a position he is not unaccustomed to, and was jeered by an unfriendly crowd and cheered when he was substituted late in the game. Matic was highly critical that day of the crowd's behaviour towards Tsoumerkas.

"I put him in the team after being out ten weeks injured, and they're booing him. But these people can stay home as far as I am concerned, they're not supporters.

But Matic admits that attracting these people to the games is the clubs top priority and he knows that he must start producing results to win them back.

"My worry is attracting crowds, more than anything else," said Matic. Part of Matic's problem has been the loss of Socceroo, Goran Lozanovski, through injury. A fracture of the ankle left him on the sidelines up until the round eleven clash with the Brisbane Strikers. The full extent of Lozanovski's injury could not be determined until after three tests.

Lozanovski further aggravated the trouble spot whilst training and took longer than expected to return. Even with three games under his belt since the comeback, Matic concedes that Lozanovski is "only about 30 per cent fit".

The team that Matic has built out of virtually nothing has had it's depth challenged by an annoying little string of injuries. Even reserve goalkeeper, Dean Anastasiadis, got a run as a substitute, though playing in defence and not his preferred position.

But a look at the players that Collingwood has that aren't regular first team members doesn't make for good reading should they face an injury and suspension crisis. Vlad Babic, Peter Di Iorio and Frank Catalano are all good young players in their own right, but are not ready yet to match it with the best that the league has to offer. Apart from that there isn't much else. Tom Karapatasos and the experienced John Waddell have left the club further depleting the squad.

The bulk of the Heidelberg United side, which was runner up in the premier league grand final, remained, but it was capture of players such as Lozanovski, Ernie Tapai, Frank Juric and Kimon Taliadoros and their Ericsson Cup experience that the side was going to benefit from the most. Matic says he approached a lot of players trying to form the team but found difficulties.

"It was difficult to sign players if you mentioned that Heidelberg was involved in some way. I never thought it was going to be that difficult to attract players."

Since then Matic has brought in midfielder Mark Silic after falling out with the Melbourne Knights and defender Joe Vrkic has been loaned to the Warriors from Sydney United after the Kaplanovic debacle. The acquisition of Vrkic adds height and pace to Collingwood's defence, something it needed badly.

The Warriors had been linked to three Australian players currently playing in Greece. Matic quickly quelled rumours that the club was chasing Panathinaikos' Lou Hristodoulou and Olympiakos' Chris Kalantzis. There was also a strong possibility that Joe Palatsides was to join the club although he seems set to stay in Greece with a first division club.

Despite all these team problems Matic says, "We will eventually have a better team." But at this stage he has some real problems.

"I've got certain players, they don't understand me, or they just don't understand anything. We still should be playing better, creating more chances." Matic says that he and the club aren't even thinking about the finals although he does think the team should be higher placed on the ladder.

"If we didn't have the injuries we would have picked up another six points." But approaching the second leg of South Melbourne double at Victoria Park, Collingwood are precariously placed and in big danger of losing touch with the top six.

"Any next game is the most important thing in my life," says Matic when he asked of the importance of the Lakers game. The Warriors have their problems, but probably none so much as any other Ericsson Cup team. Their first order would be to put things right on the field.

If anyone can do that, it will be Zoran Matic.

Collingwood Warriors started strong.

Brett Hughes Passes Mark

By PHIL MURPHY

Wolves goalkeeper Brett Hughes had an enviable appearance record before he was forced to miss the recent home game against Canberra because of a foot injury.

Hughes had previously missed just one game in four and a half seasons at Brandon Park.

That was last year when he couldn't play in the home game against UTS Olympic because he was suspended after being sent off the previous week. Youth team keeper Steve Angelov took over and Hughes estimates he missed just one game in a total of 115 since signing with the Wolves.

Recently the Wolves presented Hughes with a trophy to mark his 150th national league game. However, he believes he has played quite a few more than 150.

The former youth international was with Sydney City, Apia, Blacktown City and Marconi before arriving at Wollongong when David Ratcliffe was Coach.

Hughes missed the games against Canberra and Collingwood with a hairline fracture to a foot. He was hoping to be back in action for last Friday night's home game against Gippsland.

A much improved goalkeeper since former international Ron Corry became assistant coach at Wollongong, Hughes believes the team will make the playoffs.

He said the current squad was very well balanced and there seemed to be good cover for every position.

"We have a very good home record so far this season and that is very important," Hughes said. "Our crowds have been up and the supporters are obviously appreciating it.

"We just need to be a bit more lethal in front of goal during the second round. "If we can keep up our good home form and get a few more goals I think we have a great chance of making the top six."

☆☆☆

Scott Chipperfield made his Ericsson Cup debut for Wollongong against Canberra, just two days after he turned 21.

Coach Nick Theodorakopoulos wasn't just helping him celebrate his 'coming of age'.

"The boy deserved his chance," Theodorakopoulos said. "He had come off the bench for the previous three games and performed well.

"Against Collingwood, he certainly looked the part and I believe he has a future in this league. "He could even have scored a goal to celebrate his birthday."

Unfortunately for Chipperfield and Theodorakopoulos, a well struck volley went just over the Collingwood crossbar and the Wolves had to settle for a draw.

☆☆☆

The long-awaited clash between Wollogong and league leaders Sydney United has been switched from a Friday night to Sunday.

Originally set down for January 31, the game will now be played on February 2.

That should ensure Sydney United fans travel south in force to back their team and it could be the biggest crowd of the season for Wollongong.

So far they have drawn just over 5,500 against Adelaide City and Marconi.

In the first round, it ended 3-3 after Wollongong led three times.

Always tough to beat at Brandon Park, the Wolves will be out to make amends and get the three points.

Sydney United recently suffered a defeat in the "provincials" when they went down 3-1 to Newcastle.

☆☆☆

The Wolves have a congested social calendar for the rest of the season.

In February, the club is staging a business networking dinner with a very special guest speaker and there will also be a Wolves harness racing meeting at Bulli.

The Wolves annual golf day will be staged in March along with a fashion parade.

April is a big month as the very popular auction night is staged at Fraternity Club, there will be a Wolves race meeting at Kembla Grange and a supporters barbecue.

In May, the annual awards night and a gold badge luncheon are planned.

Brett Hughes: Being presented with a silver salver (tray) to mark his 150 NSL games.

ABSW ADVERTISER

ROCKDALE ILINDEN SOCCER CLUB

Rockdale City Suns
1st Grade
Players Wanted for its
U/21 & U/18's
Trials & Training sessions will commence
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, from 6 pm
VENUE: **ROCKDALE ILINDEN SPORTS CENTRE**
WEST BOTANY STREET, ARNCLIFFE.
(ENTRANCE OPP. SPRING & TERRY STREETS)
For further details contact:—
JIM **0418960486** or
BILL (W) **96916927**
(H) **95890767**
ALSO COACH WANTED FOR YOUTH LEAGUE U/14s

TOTAL FOOTBALL EDUCATION BASED ON BRAZILIAN MASTERS

First 12 week semester of the Academy commences February, 1997 with limited vacancies

After successful introductory period in 1996 Boys & Girls 8-17 years welcome to enrol All backgrounds & All standards

DONT FORGET LOGO

"I endorse and approve The Football Academy of Excellence Australia which is in [illegible] with the Brazilian Academy in Rio de Janeiro Prof. [illegible] E. Neto Director."

Opportunity to reach full potential using proven Brazilian methods:— Early enrolments advised.
Further details:— Ph.: (02) 9526 7426 or Fax: (02) 9526 7401

Dominic Longo Marconi keeping a close watch on Kris Trajanovski of UTS Olympic in last month's game.

AC UNITED SOCCER CLUB

MENS STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2
HOLDING TRIALS FOR PLAYERS WISHING TO TRY OUT FOR 1ST GRADE, U 21's & U 18's
HEAD COACH: **OSVALDO ECALI**
DATE: 19 JAN, 1997 ☆ TIME: 10 AM ☆ PLACE: ABRUZZI OVAL, 11 ELIZABETH ST., WETHERILL PK.
ENQUIRIES CONTACT:
FRANK (WK) 9267 1611 (MOB) 0411 381 969
(HM) 9743 4658
PLAYERS REQUIRED FOR:
U 16'S YOUTH LEAGUE DIVISION 1
Contact: **TERRI FORBES**
(HM) 9725 7400 (WK) 9742 7000

BELMORE HERCULES SOCCER CLUB

NSW STATE LEAGUE DIV 1

The above club invites Players and Goalkeepers to Trial for

U/18 U/21 & 1ST GRADE

ALL TRIALS UNDER SUPERVISION OF BELMORE'S HEADCOACH
MARSHALL SOPER

For further enquiries on venues, dates and times Please call or fax details:—
02 9718 0888

1ST & 2ND GRADE SOCCER PLAYERS WANTED!

KOSCIUSKO SOCCER CLUB
STATE LEAGUE DIV 5

A new Soccer force in western suburbs invites quality players for training sessions every:—

TUESDAY & THURSDAY AT 19.00 HRS
Commencing on:— TUESDAY
7 JANUARY, 1997
AS PART OF PREPARATION FOR NEW SEASON ☆ EXCELLENT OWN SPORT FACILITIES AT:—
CHOPIN PARK, BUNGALOW ROAD, PLUMPTON
For the most talented, possibility to continue soccer career in Europe
FOR INFORMATION PHONE: MARK
(02) 9675 1197

THE SOCCER PREMIER

TOUR OPERATORS ANNOUNCE BRITISH SOCCER SENSATION

THE FIRST BRITISH SOCCER TOUR FROM DOWN UNDER

APRIL 24 — MAY 18, 1997

An unbelievable opportunity to visit some of the best English Premier and Scottish Football clubs in the UK. Here are the ones we are visiting:—

Arsenal, Tottenham, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United, Celtic, Rangers, Newcastle, Leeds United, Aston Villa, Chelsea, Sheffield Wednesday and West Ham.

In the 23 day tour of the UK we will also be taking in some of the best football action live. We will see the England v Georgia game at Wembley (Wednesday April 30). At Anfield to see the Liverpool v Tottenham game on May 3 and then see Celtic v Dundee on May 10.

Attendance at other games may be added if postponed games are scheduled.

Places are limited so don't delay.

JUST $6499 each

Based on share twin basis, cost includes return airfare, 19 nights accommodation and breakfast daily. Welcome dinner at Football Restaurant and return airport transfers.

Note: there are four days at the end of the tour where you are free to make your own arrangements

Entrance to all 13 English premier and Scottish clubs. Full coach transfers for touring around the UK. Half day sightseeing tour of London. Tour of Wembley Stadium. Full day tour of the Lake District. full day tour of Edinburgh. Entrance and seats to the three games.

FA CUP FINAL

YES we can get tickets to this game. As you will be in London on Saturday May 17, we have an opportunity to buy corporate packages to this sell out event. They are pre-bookable and a once in a lifetime opportunity at 395 pounds each which includes seats on the side, dinner plus drinks before and after the FA Cup Final.

If you require more information and a full itinerary of this tour please contact one of the official travel operators. Complete the coupon below and send to your nearest Tour operator.

WORLD HOLIDAYS
WORLD HOLIDAYS PTY LTD, 22 William St., Melbourne 3000, AUSTRALIA. Ph: 962 11333 Fax: 961 47 027
ACN 058 484 612 • LIC 31677 • PH Toll free: 1800 81 33 31

KERRY PHILLIPS
GREAT EVENTS
KERRY PHILLIPS GREAT EVENTS, 110 Belford St., Broadmeadow, NSW 2292 Ph.: (049) 61 0800 Fax: (049) 61 0855.
ACN 003 060 795 • LIC: 2TA 001854.

SPORTS •Abroad•
SPORTS ABROAD, 51 Hurstmere Rd., Takapuna, AUCKLAND. Ph: 64 9 488 4489 Fax: 64 9 486 4247. PO Box 33 1820, Takapuna, Auckland, NEW ZEALAND.

Name: _____ **Address:** _____
Day Ph: _____ **After Hours Ph:** _____ **Fax::** _____
Number of people interested: _____

☐ **Yes I am interested please send me the full itinerary**
☐ **Yes I would like to book, enclosed is my deoposit of $500 for each person**
☐ **Please put me on your mailing list for further tours**
☐ **Club you support in UK:**

AROUND THE CLUBS

OZ TEL IN NEWCASTLE

By DANE SKAFTE

Australian Socceroo coach, Terry Venables will visit Newcastle this Friday night to watch Newcastle Topper Breakers take on Adelaide City. The new Socceroo boss is taking part in a tour of the Ericsson Cup clubs.

Venables arrived in Sydney last week and according to Soccer Australia Media Liaison Steve Speziale,

"Terry will visit Breakers and the following night's clash between Canberra Cosmos and Melbourne Knights at Bruce Stadium," Speziale concluded.

Breakers General Manager, Pat Clarke said he was very pleased with Venables visit to Newcastle.

"He has a very tight schedule and it is very nice he is taking time to visit the Breakers.

"Most of the players will get their first opportunity to impress in front of the new chief."

☆ ☆ ☆

Newcastle Breakers have organised a Charity Day on Sunday January 19th at the Breakers Stadium for the families of the Gretley mine disaster.

The day's proceedings will get underway from 11.00am with the main clash between the Topper Breakers and NSW State League side Adamstown Rosebuds expected to kick off about 4 o'clock.

Breakers General Manager Pat Clarke said all the proceeds made on the day will go to the families of the victims.

"There will be no admission charge but a gold coin donation would be appreciated."

☆ ☆ ☆

Breakers Boss John Kosmina has been asked by Soccer Australia (SA) to explain an allegation that he 'handled' striker Harry James as he left the field of play against UTS Olympic at Belmore Sports Ground.

SA General Manager Stefan Kamasz has sent a 'please explain' letter to Kosmina about the alleged incident.

"I am still waiting to see the official report regarding the incident," he said.

"If Soccer Australia feels there is a case to be answered, then it would go to the tribunal."

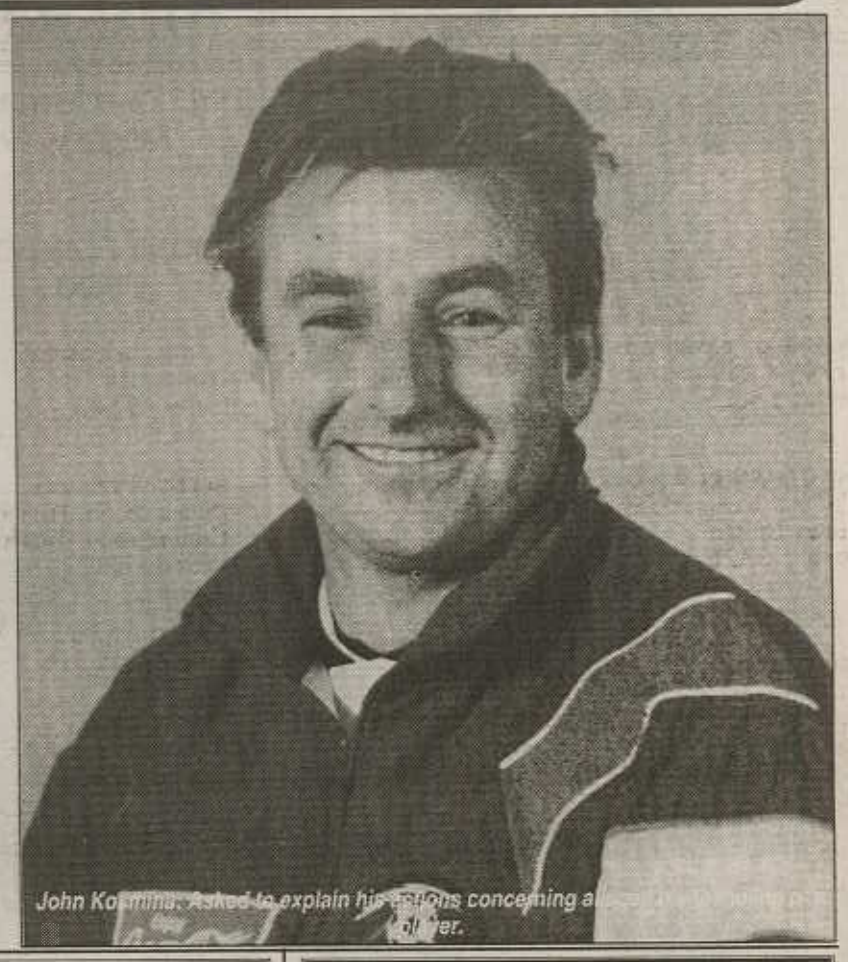
Breakers General Manager, Pat Clarke told ABSW last week that the club was dealing with the matter internally.

"We are not trying to hide anything," he said.

"The Coach (John Kosmina) and the player (Harry James) must come to a mutual agreement."

"If Soccer Australia requires an explanation regarding the incident we will abide by their decision."

James has been told by the club not to comment on the incident. Meanwhile James will be available after his one match suspension for this Friday night's return clash with Adelaide City at Breakers Stadium.



John Kosmina: Asked to explain his actions concerning a [illegible] player.

Sydney United

By JOHN WHITE

Sydney United are set for the biggest challenge of their season to date but rather than play it safe on their own tight Edensor Road ground they are making life even swifter in the fast lane by shifting up the road, albeit temporarily, to Parramatta Stadium.

The danger is that Brisbane Strikers will be more suited to the wide open spaces than the home side but don't tell Pumas coach Branko Culina that, "Some people have suggested that," admits Culina, "but look, we have players like Ante Moric and Kresimir Marusic who absolutely revel out wide.

"Both of these players are capable of providing quality long-range crosses and we have the strikers to be able to do the damage with that kind of service."

And Culina is playing down any talk of a championship decider at this stage of the season.

"That is far too premature," he says. "Just a few weeks ago we were unbeaten and then look what happened.

"Anything can happen in soccer, but this looks like a great game and I am hoping that the atmosphere that a venue like Parramatta Stadium can generate will lift the players to bigger things."

And off the field the club has really been working overtime, trying to get everything ready for the big day.

"We've got the young and up and coming hit band Kulcha playing for our pre-match entertainment," says club Director Robert Krslovic, "and we've also got Terry Venables speaking at a pre-match dinner.

"That will give everybody a chance to really enjoy a great day out and I am sure that our fans will appreciate that we are looking at the bigger picture on this occasion.

"Everybody knows just how much we have improved our own stadium in past seasons but we are looking further down the track and this is a good opportunity to see how Parramatta Stadium is suited to an Ericsson Cup match.

Club officials are confidently predicting an attendance which will top the 11,000 plus figure against Olympic last year which stands as United's Ericsson Cup record.

But Krslovic points out another reason why United fans should get along to what is being billed as the match of the season.

"This will be the farewell to Tony Popovic," he says. "Immediately following the game Tony will go into camp with the Socceroos and then he is off to Japan where he will be playing for Sanfecce Hiroshima.

"Popovic is an outstanding player and will go down in the history books as one of the best players this club has ever had.

"This is the last chance we will have of farewelling him. Add that to the entertainment, big match atmosphere and a top of the table billing and this promises to be some game."

Details of the pre-match dinner can be obtained by contacting the club on (02) 9823 6418.

☆ ☆ ☆

"Naturally you play where the coach tells you," answers Ante Moric to the question asked by many in the game, 'why is he playing full back instead of midfield?"

Last season the Socceroo played a prominent role in midfield and it was often his telling left foot crosses which led to all important goals as United grabbed yet another Top Six spot.

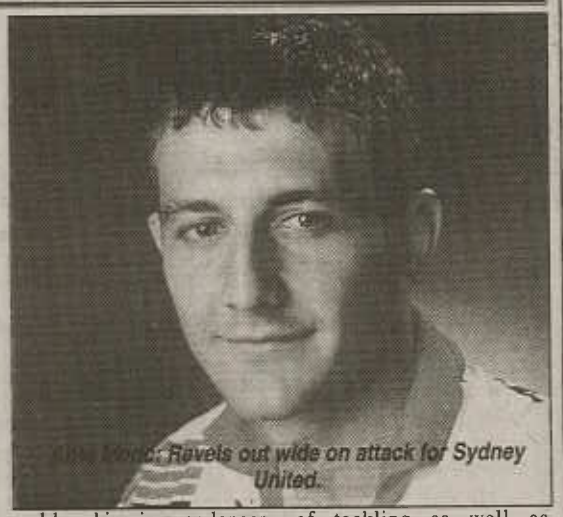
But this season has seen Ante's 'removal' into the backline, incidentally a position which former Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson thought was his best.

Moric, who played in midfield in the 1993 World Youth Championship, has tired of answering questions about which role he prefers.

"That's right," he says, "I've just answered that particular question so many times it isn't funny. "Maybe I'm just not good enough to play midfield."

But Moric does concede that it is his ability as a midfield player which is allowing him to fill the new role to coach Branko Culina's satisfaction.

Instead of linking up with the forwards or looping long balls across-field, now it is an equally familiar sight to see Moric raiding out of defence - and knocking in even longer balls to the forwards.



Ante Moric: Revels out wide on attack for Sydney United.

That has added another dimension to the United bow, and something must be going right judging by the way the team is playing.

"That's probably right," the United star says on reflection. "It does help the team to get a few long crosses in because that is our system, that is how we play.

"If it helps the team then that is important, too."

Ante Moric also recognises that his new role is a position created by the modern game, a position which has seen a lot of players once regarded as even forwards now playing 'wing back' Players such as former United icon, Robbie Slater now filling such a role for Southampton in the English Premier League.

"It is a position in which you have to get up and down the flank and get in your share of tackling as well as attacking. "It is suited to an attacking player and while it has its minuses it also has its pluses.

"Our style is a good one – it gives us our two central defenders at the back, and a stopper, as well as that freedom to get forward whenever possible.

"I don't have to stay back – I can get down the channel whenever possible."

United's successful adaptation of the modem game is one of the reasons why the season has started so well for the Pumas – that and bucket-load of talent.

And while Ante Moric would still prefer his 'conventional" role in midfield he has the final word on the switch to modern soccer.

"It's hard," he says, "but if it's good for the team then that is what this game is all about."

UTS OLYMPIC NEWS

By JODEE ROGERS

UTS Olympic Chairman, Gary Punch started off the New Year by sending a message out to all fans to get behind their club.

He stated that Coach, David Ratcliffe and the team were not happy with their results in recent games and they were giving it their all to try and turn around their fortunes.

Punch stated that Olympic's traditional detractors would like to see panic and instability break out at the club and stressed that this won't happen. He also advised that the club has a strong commitment to bringing on young players and used Sydney United as an example of a club that have nurtured their youngsters for several seasons with the results now paying off.

The Chairman spoke of the need for the team to feel their supporters behind them, cheering every time they try a shot and defend successfully. He said the team as a whole are obviously very frustrated with themselves and their confidence is down and they need the noise of the crowd roaring the Olympic chant in unison.

"This is a time when Olympic needs their loyal fans to come in great numbers and cheer until they lose their voices," he finished.

Soccer Australia may react to complaints

Soccer Australia says it is prepared to look into a Brisbane Strikers complaint over comments made by players on a television show about player-coach Frank Farina.

The Strikers are seeking an apology from SBS-TV over suggestions by a panel of commentators and players on its 'On The Ball' program that Farina may be milking penalties in the box.

Chairman David Hill says he hasn't seen the Strikers letter of complaint, but he says Soccer Australia is prepared to consider the issue of the players comments.

Strikers administrator, Alan Vessey has been quoted as saying the comments by current players Andy Harper and Abbas Saad could be in breach of the code of conduct.

Sydney United coach, Branko Culina has urged Farina to ignore the critics and concentrate on his job. Culina said that Farina with his international and overseas experience should be used to receiving criticism from the press.

ERICSSON CUP

RESULTS & SCORERS

ROUND THIRTEEN

Wollongong City 5
(Ceccoli 3, Lloyd 11, Joseski 38, 58, Dimoski 84)
Gippsland Falcons 2
(Krncevic 1, Foy 59)
Crowd: 5,462

Brisbane Strikers 3
(Wright 5, Farina 32, Battistin 89)
Sydney United 0
Crowd: 13,121

Marconi Fairfield 1
(Harper 43)
Perth Glory 2
(Kalogeracos 9, 66)
Crowd: 5,419

Melbourne Knights 1
(A Cervinski 44)
Canberra Cosmos 1
(Perinovich 77)
Crowd: 2,980

South Melbourne 4
(Spink 28, 76, Trimboli 55, Allsopp 85)
Collingwood Warriors 0
Crowd: 12,652

UTS Olympic 1
(Tome 33)
West Adelaide 4
(Thorp 20, Castro 34, Hooker 50 pen, Tsekinis 52)
Crowd: 5,249

Adelaide City 2
(Gibson 21, Brooks 52)
Newcastle Breakers 2
(McGuire 37, Halpin 61)
Crowd: 3,365

ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR ROUND 13
1995/96 – 29,626
1996/97 – 48,248

NEXT WEEK'S FIXTURES

PRICES SUPPLIED BY SPORTODDS

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS V ADELAIDE CITY
FRIDAY 10 JANUARY 1997 – 7.30PM
Newcastle Breakers 6/4, Draw 2/1, Adelaide City 6/4

CANBERRA COSMOS V MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
SATURDAY 11 JANUARY 1997 - 7.00PM
Canberra Cosmos 2/1, Draw 9/4, Melbourne Knights EV

GIPPSLAND FALCONS V WOLLONGONG CITY
SATURDAY 11 JANUARY 1997 - 7.30PM
Gippsland Falcons 5/4, Draw 9/4, Wollongong City 7/4

PERTH GLORY V MARCONI FAIRFIELD
SUNDAY 12 JANUARY 1997 - 5.00PM
Perth Glory 4/5, Draw 9/4, Marconi 5/2

COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS V SOUTH MELBOURNE
SUNDAY 12 JANUARY 1997 - 6.00PM
Collingwood Warriors 7/4, Draw 9/4, South Melbourne 5/4

SYDNEY UNITED V BRISBANE STRIKERS
SUNDAY 12 JANUARY 1997 7.00PM
Sydney United 5/4, Draw 9/4, Brisbane Strikers 2/1

WEST ADELAIDE V UTS OLYMPIC
SUNDAY 12 JANUARY 1997 - 7.30PM
West Adelaide 6/4, Draw 9/4, UTS Olympic 6/4

Bet on any sport over the phone.
SportOdds
FreeCall 1800 650 818

Player of the Year Points

NAME	TEAM	PTS
Troy Halpin	*Newcastle Breakers*	19
Alvin Ceccoli	*Wollongong City*	12
Paul Trimboli	*South Melbourne*	12
Bobby Despotovski	*Perth Glory*	11
Dino Mennillo	*Adelaide City*	11
Matthew Horsley	*Wollongong City*	11
Sean Cranney	*Brisbane Strikers*	10
Jim Tsekinis	*West Adelaide*	9
Alan Hunter	*Brisbane Strikers*	9
Kasey Wehrman	*Brisbane Strikers*	9
David Cervinski	*Melbourne Knights*	9
Jim Kourtis	*Gippsland Falcons*	9

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	13	9	2	2	35	19	29
Brisbane Strikers	13	9	2	2	30	14	29
Perth Glory	13	7	1	5	30	22	22
South Melbourne	13	6	3	4	18	11	21
Wollongong City	13	5	6	2	21	16	21
Adelaide City	13	5	5	3	16	11	20
Marconi Fairfield	13	5	2	6	20	20	17
West Adelaide	13	5	1	7	18	25	16
UTS Olympic	13	4	4	5	18	24	16
Melbourne Knights	13	3	4	6	14	16	13
Newcastle Breakers	14	2	7	5	22	26	13
Gippsland Falcons	13	3	4	6	14	23	13
Collingwood Warriors	13	2	6	5	13	26	12
Canberra Cosmos	14	1	5	8	13	29	8

Leading Goal Scorers

NAME	TEAM	GOALS
David Zdrilic	*Sydney United*	12
Bobby Despotovski	*Perth Glory*	9
Ante Milicic	*Sydney United*	7
Frank Farina	*Brisbane Strikers*	7
Norman Tome	*UTS Olympic*	7
Rodney Brown	*Brisbane Strikers*	6
Paul Strudwick	*Perth Glory*	6
Vasili Kalogeracos	*Perth Glory*	6
Jason Bennett	*Newcastle Breakers*	5
Matthew Horsley	*Wollongong City*	5
Nick Joseski	*Wollongong City*	5
Eddie Krncevic	*Gippsland Falcons*	5
Kris Trajanovski	*UTS Olympic*	5
Jimmy Tsekinis	*West Adelaide*	5

Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY

BOB CATLIN

MARCONI FAIRFIELD STALLIONS

ABBAS SAAD

UTS OLYMPIC

WORLD RESULTS

ENGLAND
January 1
Premier League

Arsenal	2	Middlesbrough	0
Chelsea	1	Liverpool	0
Coventry	2	Sunderland	2
Everton	0	Blackburn	2
Manchester United	0	Aston Villa	0
Newcastle	3	Leeds	0
West Ham	0	Nottingham Forest	1

Postponed:

Derby	v	Sheffield Wednesday
Leicester	v	Tottenham
Southampton	v	Wimbledon

Division 1

Bolton	2	Bradford	1
Charlton	1	Ipswich	1
Huddersfield	2	Stoke	1
Norwich	1	Portsmouth	0
West Bromwich	1	Tranmere	2

Postponed:

Barnsley	v	Oldham
Birmingham	v	Manchester City
Crystal Palace	v	Reading
Oxford	v	Grimsby
Port Vale	v	Southend
Sheffield United	v	Wolves
Swindon	v	QPR

Division 2

Shrewsbury	1	Blackpool	3

Postponed:

Brentford	v	Wycombe
Bristol Rovers	v	Plymouth
Burnley	v	Chesterfield
Crewe	v	Millwall
Luton	v	Bury
Notts County	v	Bournemouth
Peterborough	v	Watford
Preston	v	Wrexham
Rotherham	v	Gillingham
Stockport	v	York
Walsall	v	Bristol City

Division 3

Hartlepool	1	Hull	1
Northampton	4	Cardiff	0
Torquay	2	Brighton	1

Postponed:

Colchester	v	Leyton Orient
Darlington	v	Carlisle
Exeter	v	Barnet
Lincoln	v	Wigan
Mansfield	v	Fulham
Rochdale	v	Hereford
Scarborough	v	Cambridge
Scunthorpe	v	Chester
Swansea	v	Doncaster

FA CUP Third Round

Arsenal	1	Sunderland	1
Blackburn	1	Port Vale	0
Chelsea	3	West Bromwich	0
Liverpool	1	Burnley	0
Middlesbrough	6	Chester	0
Norwich	1	Sheffield United	0
Nottingham Forest	3	Ipswich	0
Plymouth	0	Peterborough	1
QPR	1	Huddersfield	1
Reading	3	Southampton	1
Sheffield Wed	7	Grimsby	1
Stevenage	0	Birmingham	2
Wolverhampton	1	Portsmouth	2
Wrexham	1	West Ham	1
Manchester United	2	Tottenham Hotspur	0

FA CUP
Fourth Round Draw

Peterborough	v	Wrexham or West Ham
Charlton or N'castle	v	Nottingham Forest
Blackburn	v	Coventry or Woking
Luton or Bolton	v	Chesterfield or Bristol City
Birmingham	v	Stoke or Stockport
QPR or Hud'field	v	Barnsley or Oldham
Portsmouth	v	Reading
Carlisle or T'mere	v	Sheffield Wed
Everton	v	Bradford City
Hednesford or York	v	Middlesbrough
Chelsea	v	Liverpool
Gill'ham or Derby	v	Notts C or Aston Villa
Leicester or S'end	v	Norwich
Arsenal or S'land	v	Crystal Palace or Leeds
Brentford or Man C	v	Watford or Oxford
Man United	v	Crewe or Wimbledon

Ties to be played on January 25 or 26

ITALY

Atalanta	1	Verona	0
Cagliari	1	Piacenza	0
Fiorentina	3	Napoli	0
Inter	3	Roma	1
Parma	1	Juventus	0
Perugia	1	Reggiana	3
Udinese	4	Sampdoria	5
Vicenza	2	Bologna	0
Lazio	3	Milan	0

Juventus	15	8	5	2	21	12	29
Vicenza	15	7	5	3	25	15	26
Sampdoria	15	7	4	4	27	19	25
Inter	15	6	7	2	23	17	25
Fiorentina	15	6	6	3	24	16	24
Napoli	15	6	5	4	18	20	23
Bologna	15	6	4	5	22	20	22
Milan	14	6	3	5	22	16	21
Parma	15	5	6	4	15	14	21
Roma	15	5	5	5	22	21	20
Atalanta	15	5	5	5	19	21	20
Lazio	14	5	4	5	14	13	19
Udinese	15	5	3	7	23	25	18
Perugia	15	5	2	8	19	26	17
Piacenza	15	4	5	6	15	22	17
Cagliari	15	3	5	7	17	23	14
Verona	15	2	4	9	16	29	10
Reggiana	15	1	6	8	14	27	9

NORTHERN IRELAND

Coleraine	0	Ards	0
Crusaders	1	Glenavon	0
Glentoran	1	Cliftonville	1
Portadown	0	Linfield	2

Coleraine	14	7	5	2	21	14	26
Crusaders	15	6	6	3	18	12	24
Linfield	13	6	4	3	19	12	22
Glenavon	15	5	6	4	19	17	21
Glentoran	15	3	8	4	21	21	17
Portadown	14	3	5	6	13	19	14
Ards	14	3	4	7	13	21	13
Cliftonville	14	2	6	6	11	19	12

PORTUGAL

Sporting	4	Salgueiros	0
Farense	1	Setubal	1
Estrela Amadora	2	Belenenses	2
Maritimo	1	Braga	1
Boavista	0	Chaves	1
Espinho	1	Uniao Leiria	0
Rio Ave	0	Gil Vicente	2
Porto	3	Guimaraes	1
Leca	1	Benfica	5

Porto	14	12	2	0	31	6	38
Benfica	14	10	3	1	29	6	33
Sporting	14	8	3	3	19	7	27
Espinho	14	8	2	4	18	16	26
Braga	14	6	5	3	20	19	23
Estrela	14	6	4	4	17	13	22
Setubal	14	5	6	3	18	15	21
Farense	14	5	5	4	13	12	20
Boavista	14	4	6	4	19	16	18
Leca	14	5	3	6	18	19	18
Guimaraes	14	5	2	7	20	22	17
Chaves	14	4	5	5	14	20	17
Salgueiros	14	3	6	5	16	20	15
Belenenses	14	4	3	7	17	27	15
Maritimo	14	3	5	6	14	21	14
Uniao Leiria	14	3	2	9	9	23	11
Gil Vicente	14	2	2	10	14	27	8
Rio Ave	14	0	2	12	10	27	2

SCOTLAND
January 1
Premier Division

Dundee United	4	Aberdeen	0
Dunfermline	2	Raith	0
Hibernian	0	Hearts	4

Division 1

East Fife	1	Stirling	3
Partick	3	Clydebank	1
St Johnstone	7	Dundee	2

Division 2

Livingston	2	Berwick	2

Division 3

Arbroath	1	Cowdenbeath	0
Montrose	0	Forfar	4

Premier Division

Aberdeen	0	Dunfermline	2
Celtic	5	Motherwell	0
Dundee United	2	Kilmarnock	0
Hibernian	1	Rangers	2
Raith	1	Hearts	2

Division 1

Falkirk	1	Clydebank	1
Partick	1	Stirling	1

Postponed:

Airdrieonians	v	Greenock Morton
East Fife	v	St Johnstone
St Mirren	v	Dundee

FA Cup Second Round

Berwick	2	Peterhead	1
Queen's Park	2	Gala Fairydean	1

Postponed:

Ayr v Clyde (new date: Jan 7)
Brechin v Livingston (Jan 8)
Cowdenbeath v Dumbarton (Jan 7)
East Stirling v Brora Rangers (Jan 11)
Forfar v Alloa (Jan 8)
Ross County v Montrose (Jan 11)
Spartans v Arbroath (Jan 11),
Stenhousemuir v Hamilton (Jan Jan 8)
Stranraer v Inverness (Jan 11)
Whitehill v Queen of the South (Jan 11).

SPAIN

Espanyol	0	Compostela	2
Extremadura	2	Atletico Madrid	4
Hercules	1	Sporting Gijon	1
Oviedo	2	Logrones	1
Racing Santander	1	Tenerife	2
Real Sociedad	1	Zaragoza	0
Real Madrid	1	Athletic Bilbao	0
Rayo Vallecano	P	Sevilla	P

(postponed because of snow)

Deportivo Coruna	0	Barcelona	1
Celta Vigo	0	Valladolid	2

Real Madrid	18	12	6	0	35	13	42
Barcelona	18	12	4	2	48	21	40
Deportivo Coruna	18	10	7	1	25	9	37
Real Betis	17	10	5	2	36	14	35
Atletico Madrid	18	9	5	4	33	22	32
Real Sociedad	18	9	4	5	25	21	31
Valladolid	18	8	5	5	22	20	29
Tenerife	18	8	4	6	33	21	28
Athletic Bilbao	18	7	6	5	29	24	27
Racing Santander	18	6	7	5	19	19	25
Valencia	17	7	2	8	26	23	23
Rayo Vallecano	17	6	5	6	23	20	23
Celta Vigo	18	6	5	7	19	21	23
Oviedo	18	6	4	8	22	25	22
Espanyol	18	5	4	9	21	27	19
Compostela	18	5	4	9	16	31	19
Sporting Gijon	18	4	6	8	18	26	18
Logrones	18	4	3	11	13	42	15
Zaragoza	18	2	8	8	18	29	14
Sevilla	17	4	2	11	13	26	14
Hercules	18	3	3	12	15	33	12
Extremadura	18	1	5	12	11	33	8

David Seaman: His side, Arsenal drew against Sunderland in the FA Cup third round.

WORLD STORIES

LOSE TO WIN

An official Cypriot commission is to investigate allegations of match fixing in a World Cup qualifier between Cyprus and Bulgaria on December 14, a Cyprus Football Association official said last Friday.

The commission is to be appointed by the Cyprus Sports Association (KOA), which is due to meet on Tuesday to decide on its responsibilities, an FA official said.

"The FA has decided to assign the investigation to KOA because it wants a completely independent inquiry". The allegations, reported extensively by the local media, suggest players on the island's national team placed considerable bets for Cyprus to lose to Bulgaria in the match, played in the southern coastal town of Limassol. Cyprus lost 3-1 to Bulgaria.

The reports do not mention any specific player, but football authorities admit the sums bet on the match - up to 10 times the normal - were enough to arouse suspicion. FA officials have publicly stated that up to $A64,500 was placed on the game. The usual sum bet was around $A6,000.

Bookmakers even rejected some bets because the sums placed made them suspicious. The FA has asked for a government inquiry into bookmakers' accounts to ascertain who and how much money was actually bet.

ROBSON GAMBLE

Barcelona gave their Spanish title hopes a massive boost last Saturday as a last-gasp Juan Antonio Pizzi goal secured a 1-0 win over Deportivo La Coruna. The result takes Bobby Robson's men back to the top of the first division table, a point clear of Real Madrid, who were due to host improving Athletic Bilbao.

Former England boss Robson has been under pressure since Barcelona lost 2-0 at Real a month ago. Star Brazilian striker Ronaldo then fanned the flames by criticising his manager's coaching style.

Deportivo, level on points with Barca at start of play and managed by another former international coach in Welshman John Toshack, had also hoped to go top by handing the Catalan giants their third defeat of the season. But the home side, badly missing injured French striker Michel Madar, fell to Pizzi's sucker punch instead, just seconds from the final whistle to succumb to their first league defeat of the campaign.

After a tense opening period, both sides upped the tempo as they went all out for the three points. Barcelona had sufficient chances to put the game beyond Deportivo's reach but Ronaldo was desperately unlucky as he twice hit the post.

With time running out and with Barca having withstood a spell of intense pressure, Robson sent Pizzi on to replace Albert Ferrer. And his last throw of the dice proved inspired as the Argentinian scored with virtually his first touch.

Bobby Robson hopes to become the second English coach to lead what is arguably the world's biggest football club, to a Spanish title win. The other coach was a certain Terry Venables whose name is not unfamiliar to Australian soccer fans.

HAVELANGE CONFIRMS DECISION

Joao Havelange reaffirmed on New Year's Eve that he would stand down as president of FIFA, when his mandate expired in June 1998.

"I will be 82 by then and the descent to 86 is fast," he told the Jornal do Brasil daily newspaper in an interview. "I want to spend more time with my grandchildren and not have to worry about airline timetables."

He said he would not back any possible replacement. "I'm not going to propose anyone. I have a lot of friends and it would not be correct to give one of them my preference."

He promised that the 1998 World Cup would be "a show of organisation in modern sports " and also claimed that football could succeed where politics had failed.

"Only football has the power to solve the problems of international conflicts ... In Asia and the East, we have had football matches between countries in conflict."

Havelange said he had visited 186 countries since taking over as president in 1974.

He said that each of the 32 finalists at the 1998 World Cup in France would receive from FIFA $A1.26 million a game played.

"In the past, the teams spent a lot of money on the World Cup. Today, it is when they get their biggest income," he said.

Parramatta Eagles were first

The sudden interest by Sydney United in Parramatta Stadium has ruffled a few feathers down in the Eagles nest.

Just a few months ago Parramatta Leagues Club offered a substantial sponsorship to the Eagles. As a result Soccer Australia listened to a proposition by the Eagles committee, the Mayor of the City of Parramatta and the General Manager of the Leagues Club.

The Minister of Sport for NSW, Mrs Gabrielle Harrison gave her full written support as did the managers of the ground, the Parramatta Stadium Trust.

Parramatta Eagles proposed that the Club be included in the Ericsson Cup. The only reason that they can establish for a knock back is that their budget at $1.1 million was considered too low. However Brisbane Strikers are believed to have had a budget just $100,000 more!

The Club has a strong setup in the NSW Super League competition sweeping the home and away series and the Grand Final winnings into their coffers in 1996. They ended the season as beaten finalists in the prestigious Waratah Cup.

Their Under 16s were NSW State Champions while success came the way of many of their junior teams who play in the Granville Association competitions.

Too strong for the NSW State competition, rejected by Ericsson Cup management. The Eagles are understandably concerned by Sydney United's move into what they consider Parramatta's territory.

There is concern amongst the Eagles Board that if the game at Parramatta Stadium between Sydney United and Brisbane Strikers is a success, then the Pumas could submit an application to use that facility for the 97/98 season.

A smart move by Sydney United? Maybe, but will they be able to broaden their supporter appeal? Only time will tell.

Meanwhile Parramatta Eagles management will have to rethink their strategy and look at linking with Blacktown City in order to tap into the 350,000 people currently in the North West area of the Sydney Conurbation. This figure is predicted to rise rapidly to over half a million.

ITALY ELITE OPEN YEAR IN DISASTEROUS FASHION

Italian giants Juventus and AC Milan both made disastrous starts to the New Year, with the world champions beaten 1-0 by Parma and Milan trounced 3-0 by Lazio.

Parma's Enrico Chiesa scored Serie A's first goal of 1997 — a free-kick which Juventus goalkeeper Michelangelo Peruzzi fumbled into his own net in the second minute.

Milan fared even worse in the night match in Rome, with Pierluigi Casiraghi engineering its second consecutive league defeat.

Casiraghi sprung Milan's off-side trap with a superb forward pass which allowed skipper Giuseppe Signori to gallop through and score after rounding Milan keeper Sebastiano Rossi.

He followed up with a superb waist-high volley which hit both posts before finding the back of the net in the 45th minute. Alessandro Grandoni headed in the third soon after the re-start.

The two defeats meant that Milan slip back to midtable while Juventus stay top with 29 points.

However, its six-point lead was slashed in half by Vicenza as Uruguayan striker Marcelo Otero scored both in a 2-0 win over 10-man Bologna.

Sampdoria, who won a nine-goal thriller at Udinese, and Inter Milan, who trounced AS Roma at San Siro, moved up to third and fourth place with 25 points apiece.

Fiorentina brought high-flying Napoli down to earth with a 3-0 victory which will have saved Fiorentina's embattled coach Claudio Ranieri.

Reggiana notched its first win of the season at the 15th attempt, beating Perugia 3-1. The result was an ominous one for Nevio Scala, who was a spectator today but takes charge as coach of Perugia this week.

Elsewhere, there were 1-0 victories for Atalanta over Verona and Cagliari over Piacenza.

Giuseppe Signori: Was on target for Lazio against AC Milan.

Snowball attacks in Spain

Real Madrid regained its lead in the Spanish first division on Sunday thanks to a solitary goal from teenager Raul Gonzalez in a snow-affected game against Athletic Bilbao.

With 42 points from 18 games Real is two points ahead of arch-rivals Barcelona, a 1-0 winner over third-placed Deportivo Coruna

Real had the best of the game but were somewhat fortunate to take threepoints as Raul's 61st-minute winner took a lucky deflection.

The game could be played only because of the effectiveness of the undersoil heating in the Santiago Bernabeu stadium on a day when Madrid neighbour Rayo Vallecano saw its game with Sevilla postponed because of snow.

The club authorities at one stage had to appeal to fans to stop bombarding players and match officials with snowballs.

Pele — stopped by injury

— PART III —

BY BOB BROOKS

'Pele the King', 'Pele the Black Caeser,' 'Pele the Divine', 'Pele part of Brazil's national heritage' so said the Mayor of Sao Paulo.

By this time Pele had been through eight years of adulation which would have overwhelmed a lesser man. But throughout he remained a model footballer & citizen.

Even with his genius he still spent hours watching films of his own games, seeing how he could eradicate flaws in his play. He would then go out on the field to work on them.

The worst he was heard to say about a poor performance by a colleague was, "He lacks enthusiasm". In 1966 he still suffered sleepless nights before important games and yet Pele had been at the top level since 1958.

The Black Pearl had incredibly fast reaction time, so that he moved for the ball a fraction of a second faster than the man who was marking him. He could move a ball three or four ways literally on a five cent piece, never losing control, never giving his marker a chance to get it.

When he was moving he glided past opponents like a ghost. A dummy here, a slide of the hips there, a change of pace, a jiggle of the shoulders. They all tended to put defenders off.

He could play with equal flair as a link man or striker. Because of his unrivalled ball control, Pele was justified in keeping the ball to himself but his lack of selfishness was remarkable. He was noted for working the ball to other players who were out of form or not having a good game, in the hope that the gesture would help them.

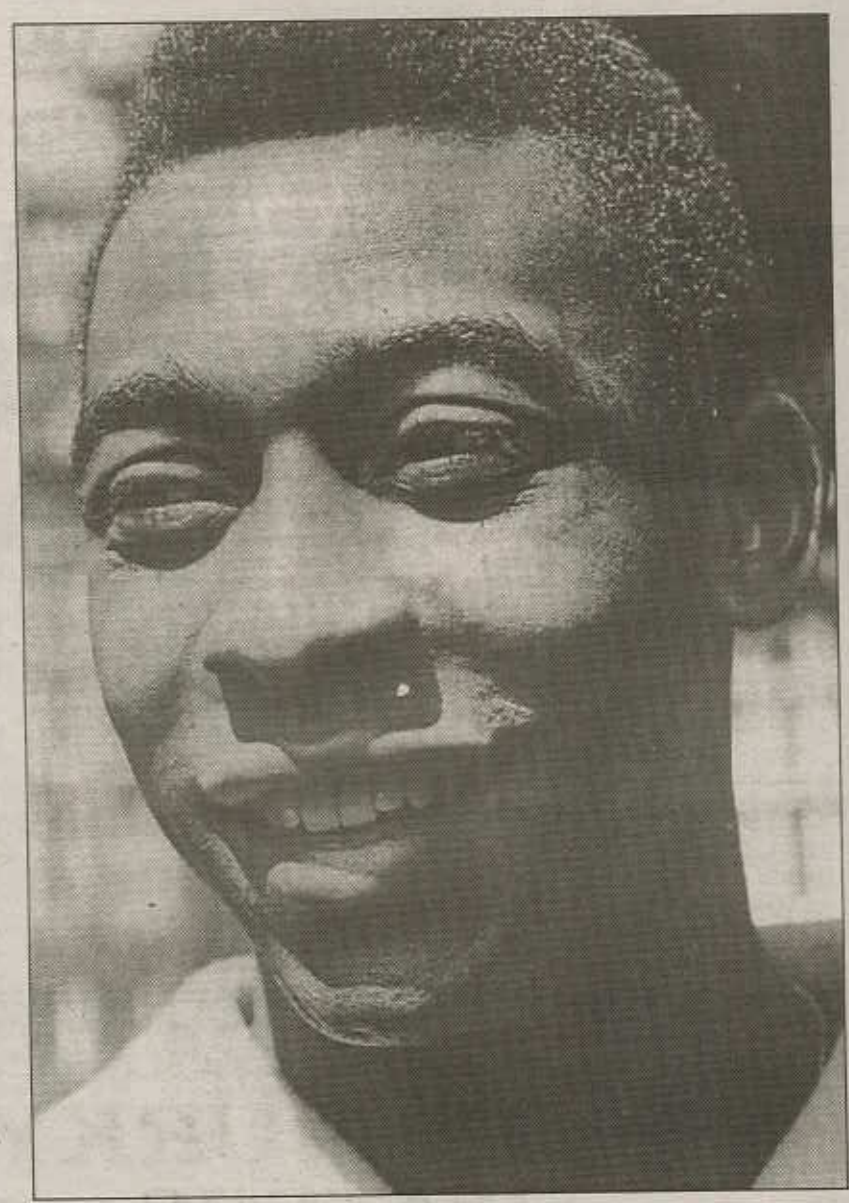
However, he still played the game as if he was a youth. He trained just as hard as his fellow team members. Tactical talks didn't rob him of his split second ability to realise instinctively what was the most advantageous manoeuvre for the team.

One defender remarked, "He is the only player who can go two ways at once."

When he didn't score, it made headlines such as in 'Stadio' of June 6, 1966. 'King Pele kept scoreless'.

At the ceremony to name a street in Tres Coracoes 'Rua Edson Arantes do Nascimento (Pele)'

Mr and Mrs do Nascimento early 1966.



'The Black Caesar"

One of his 55 goals for Santos in 1967.

WEAR PELE'S BOOTS

Players in Britain in 1966 could buy Pele football boots made by Barratts of Northampton. They cost six pounds, nineteen shillings and sixpence. They were described as having 'specially designed heel support for extra strength', 'soft supple water resistant leather'.

Barratts claimed Pele had his boots made by that company and that the reader could own the very same ones!

1966 A MOMENTOUS YEAR

1966 was a momentous year in the life of Edson Arantes do Nascimento. He was married to Rosemeri dos Reis Cholbi in a very private ceremony. They spent their brief honeymoon in Europe where the great player was granted an audience with Pope Paul VI.

A street in his hometown was named in his honour. He frolicked in the Alpine snow for publicity photographs but he missed out with his beloved Brazil on even making the semi finals of the World Cup held in England.

Pele in fact was hacked out of the tournament by Zechev of Czechoslovakia and Morais of Portugal much to the disappointment of soccer fans in the host country.

His contract was re-negotiated by Santos to take him to $4,500 a month, plus $1,000 a game played in South America, plus $1,500 a game for every overseas appearance with Santos.

Compare this to only a few years before, when England international and Fulham start Johnny Haynes became the first player in Britain to be paid $250 a week!

To be continued . . .

RISING STARS

VIS DOWN TO FALCONS

Gippsland Falcons inflicted the first defeat of the season on the Victorian Institute of Sport by two goals to one in the Latrobe Valley on December 28. All the goals came in a closely fought first half. Tony Sekulic fired an excellent goal through a crowd of bodies after his initial shot following a Dean Vella corner had been blocked. That was after twenty minutes. five minutes later Manoa Masi put the Falcons further ahead, but the VIS got a penalty in 32 and Zoran Petrevski buried that. Thereafter the Falcons had most of the play but the result remained in doubt to the end.

Melbourne Knights overwhelmed Sunshine Georgies by six goals to one at Chaplin Reserve. The first half was quite tight with the Knights ahead by only two goals to one at the interval. Thereafter it was one-way traffic with Mijo Trupkovic scoring a hat-trick for the Knights, Joey Rajher added two and Branko Bacak took his tally for the season to thirteen with his goal. Shaun Micaleff was the Georgies lone goalscorer.

South Melbourne regained top spot with a twelve-one demolition of plucky Box Hill at Wembly Park. It was six-one at the break and though Box Hill had a couple of good attacks and one goal for Mimo Orlando, who has fought very hard for his team, the Souths were too strong and too skilled. Daniel Allsopp and Alfonso Opazo each scored four times, Gary Kostakis twice and there were singles by George Tsirtis and Alex Efstathiou.

Collingwood Warriors was in danger of forgetting the lesson it learned in the last two weeks, when it dominated the first half against Green Gully but had only a single goal to show for its supremacy. Vlad Babic converted a penalty after Albert Amato brought down Jim Parisis. Babic and Lee Tsourmerkas had earlier been thwarted by the Green Gully defence or had put the ball wide when in excellent scoring positions. It was well after the hour when the Warriors broke through again, Tsourmerkas forcing home a corner kick from close range after keeper Andrew Watkins, who had a fine game throughout, could not capture the ball. Substitute Murray Makris put over a cross from the left for Daniel Moore to force the ball past Dean Anatasiadis to bring Green Gully back into the game, but Con Boutsianis found space in the penalty area to fire the ball expertly just inside the post in 82 minutes to give the Warriors some breathing space.

Melbourne Knights Colts and Bentleigh Greens drew three-all at Knights Stadium. Con Papttas put the visitors ahead in tem minutes but the Colts striking pair of Adis Kablar and Ivo Razov stormed back with a goal each. Stacy Bonito equalised just on the interval, then four minutes later Andrew Charalambous scored from the spot to put the Greens ahead once again. There were only a couple of minutes left when substitute Hrvoje Matkovic grabbed an equaliser for the Colts.

At Ross Reserve, Springvale City and Altona Magic shared the points in a one-all draw. Juan Adones put Springie in front with a penalty after 16 minutes and it took the Magic till the 70th minutes to pull the goal back, which it did through Drako Todevski.

Con Blatsis: Developed through the NYL. Scored four against Fiji, in Tahiti.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Northern Division — Round 15

Wollongong City Luff, Gordon	2	**NSW IS** Costable, Deur, Edds	3
UTS Olympic Hayes, Steele, Carle, Rastall, Zorbas	7	**UTS Olympic Colts**	0
QAS Bland, McDermott	2	**Sydney United** Cvetko, Moric, Didulica, Saric	5
Sydney United Colts Krslovic	3	**ACT Academy**	0

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle Breakers	10	7	0	3	24	11	21
NSW IS	11	7	0	4	21	19	21
Sydney United	10	6	2	2	21	9	20
UTS Olympic	11	6	2	3	24	15	20
Marconi Fairfield	9	6	0	3	9	8	18
AIS	8	5	2	1	17	5	17
Wollongong city	11	4	4	3	23	18	16
QAS	11	4	0	7	24	21	12
Marconi Fairfield Colts	11	3	1	7	13	26	10
Sydney United Colts	10	3	0	7	9	17	9
ACT AS	10	2	1	7	7	22	7
UTS Olympic Colts	10	2	0	8	8	29	6

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Southern Division — Round 15

Bentleigh (Pappas, Maisano)	2	**Heidelberg United** (Coccosis)	1
Altona Magic (Siveski, Novacevski, Todevski)	3	**Melbourne Knights Colts**	0
VIS (Arouri 3, Petrovski 2, Saric, Zaekis, Vassallo, Dazzano, Cuzzupe)	10	**Springvale City**	2
Green Gully (Moore)	1	**Gipsland Falcons** (Hutchinson)	1
South Melbourne (Opazo)	1	**Collingwood Warriors** (Stefanidis, Medjedovic)	2
Melbourne Knights (Bacak 7, Medugorac 3, Zekiri, Gavran, Raspudic)	13	**Box Hill**	0

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VIS	13	10	2	1	11	8	32
South Melbourne	13	10	0	3	60	19	30
Melbourne Knights	13	9	2	2	53	21	29
Gippsland Falcons	13	2	2	2	47	17	28
Collingwood Warriors	12	6	3	2	34	20	22
Green Gully	13	6	2	5	24	25	20
Sunshine Georgies	12	6	1	5	18	23	19
Melourne Knights Colts	14	6	1	6	23	29	19
Bentleigh Greens	12	4	2	6	20	26	14
Altona Magic	13	4	2	7	16	31	14
Springvale City Reds	13	2	3	8	18	46	9
Heidelberg United	12	1	2	9	20	38	5
Thomastown Zebras	10	1	0	9	13	35	3
Box Hill	12	0	3	9	12	64	3

SUNSMART NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Sth Australian Division — Round 10

SASI Pantellis 2, Ewing 3, Terminello, Brain	7	**Cumberland United** Andrianni	1
Blue Eagles Ilulano	1	**Para Hills** Major	1
West Adelaide Mesenzoff 2, Vidakovic 2	4	**Woodville City**	0
Adelaide City McGregor 2, Saraceno	3	**Modbury**	0

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Adelaide City	10	8	2	0	32	8	26
West Adelaide	10	7	1	2	29	5	22
Modbury	10	6	1	3	16	13	19
SASI	10	5	1	3	27	17	16
Woodville City	10	5	0	5	15	10	15
Adelaide Blue Eagles	10	3	1	5	15	30	10
Cumberland United	10	2	1	7	17	30	7
Para Hills	10	0	1	9	5	33	1

Kevin Muscat: Holding a regular and key position with Crystal Palace. He passed fifteen games in December.

MUSCAT DEAL IN MURKY WATERS

(LATE NEWS EXTRA)

The finalisation of Kevin Muscat's transfer to Crystal Palace has run into some stormy waters with legal action against South Melbourne on the cards.

Soccer Australia has intervened in the matter, further developments are expected shortly.

The licensed FIFA agent and his previous club Sunshine George Cross are believed to be involved.

NICE ONE TEL

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Thirty one years later, one Terry Venables has returned. The first time with Chelsea but this time as Australia's new World Cup manager.

Arriving last Friday night at Sydney's international airport, he hastily ripped through an informal press conference and faced a bigger one last Saturday at the Sydney Football Stadium together with his newly found 'brother' , assistant coach Raul Blanco.

On Saturday night El Tel travelled out to see Marconi to run a quick rule over four of his national squad players.

To his horror Marconi had a shocker going down to Perth Glory 1-2.

Last Sunday night Venables again witnessed a shock result as he observed UTS Olympic get routed 1-4 by West Adelaide at Belmore Oval, an Olympic side that included yet another three national squad players.

What a welcome to Australian Soccer for our new national navigator for the next France 98. Undeterred the chirpy East Londoner immediately after the Olympic v West Adelaide clash told ABSW: "It's a long way to go and I've seen a lot of good players to work with. Over the next week or so I will go and see another two or three games. Good players will show themselves."

Offering diplomatic encouragement, Venables who has seen fifty four summers on the planet as of yesterday (Monday), went on to add: "The last three games I saw back in England were terribly poor."

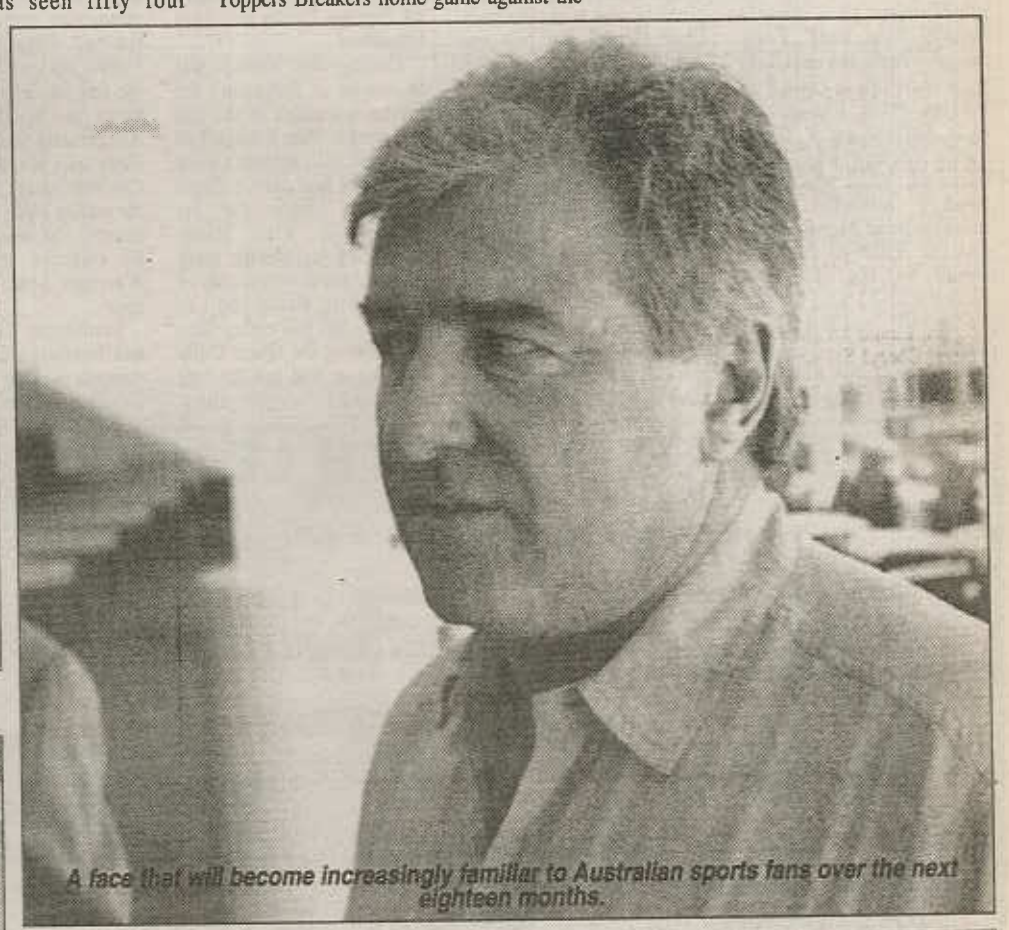
"I am picking things up quickly as I know what I want."

On Friday the former skipper of Chelsea who toured Australia in 1965 under the managership of the equally flamboyant Tommy Docherty, will journey to Newcastle to watch the Toppers Breakers home game against the visiting Adelaide City.

It became vividly obvious, and understandably so, that Venables has very quickly established a strong and trusting relationship with his assistant, Raul Blanco. Wherever you see one, you see the other.

It's wonderful to see such an intimate and professional relationship that has been so quickly established between the two footballing pros.

Terry Venables (R) with Raul Blanco at the Sydney Football Stadium.



A face that will become increasingly familiar to Australian sports fans over the next eighteen months.

Immediately after his arrival at Sydney Airport.

Is the new Australian Soccer Supremo seeking devine inspiration?

Venables and Blanco have established a trusting relationship already.

WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

GROUNDBREAKING 1996

1996 was in many ways a groundbreaking and memorable year for Australian women's soccer. We look back at some of the more notable moments.

M-WAY TRI-SERIES

A new-look combination headed for Auckland for Australia's first hit-out since the World Cup and US Cup in June and July 1995. The Aussies finished in first place, with the most encouraging aspect being some very solid performances from the newer members of the team.

Dianne Alagich, Sharon Black, Katrina Boyd, Lisa Casagrande, Lizzy Claydon, Sarah Cooper (capt), Sonia Gegenhuber, Sunni Hughes, Louise McMurtrie, Joanne Peters, Cheryl Salisbury, Kristyn Swaffer, Tammie Thornton, Sacha Wainwright, Tracey Wheeler, Amy Wilson.

Australia (Salisbury, Boyd, Peters)	3 New Zealand	0
Australia (Casagrande)	1 Korea	0
Australia (Boyd)	1 Korea	2
Australia (Hughes, Boyd)	2 New Zealand	0

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Australia	1st	9 points
Korea	2nd	4 points
New Zealand	3rd	4 points

AUSTRALIAN TEAM
International Record 1996

P	W	D	L	F	A
9	3	1	5	12	11

GOALSCORERS 1996

Katrina Boyd	4
Sunni Hughes	2
Cheryl Salisbury	1
Joanne Peters	1
Lisa Casagrande	1
Sharon Black	1
Sarah Cooper	1
Kristyn Swaffer	1

Katrina Boyd: Leading scorer for Australia in 1996.

USA TOUR
1-18 July, 1996 Florida, USA

A tour arranged to replace the last-minute cancellation of the Brazilian tournament, not much was expected of the young and inexperienced Aussie side. Underprepared, they faced the two superpowers USA and China, as well as Japan, on the eve of their Olympic Games campaigns.

Australia returned home elated, going down by just a single goal to both the USA and China, the eventual Olympic finalists. A draw against Japan could have easily been victory.

Although the USA matches were one-sided affairs, the end results instilled a confidence and belief in the Australian team, with the remaining matches a lot more even. The tour indicated the level of improvement in the Australian game.

The travelling party of players was:

Sharon Black, Katrina Boyd, Lisa Casagrande, Lizzy Claydon, Sarah Cooper (capt), Bryony Duus, Sonia Gegenhuber, Kelly Golebiowski, Sunni Hughes, Angela Iannotta, Belinda Kitching, Louise McMurtrie, Joanne Peters, Kim Revell, Bridgette Starr, Kristyn Swaffer, Tammie Thornton, Tracey Wheeler, Shelley Youman, Trena Youngblutt.

Australia (Black)	1	USA 2
Australia (Boyd)	1	USA 2
Australia (Hughes, Cooper)	2	Japan 2
Australia	0	China 1
Australia (Swaffer)	1	China 2

Sarah Cooper: Captained the touring team to the USA.

Youngest International

NSW's Kelly Golebiowski became Australia's youngest international when she came off the bench to take the field against the mighty USA the eventual 1996 Olympic champions in the opening match of the USA Tour. Golebiowski was aged just 14 years and 11 months.

Kim Lembryk had previously held the record at 15 years 5 months. Another 1996 debutant, Amy Wilson slots in at third place at 15 years 7 months.

Knees Under Knife

The worrying tally of serious knee injuries to Australian squad players continued to increase during 1996. Undergoing reconstruction surgery were Karly Pumpa, Sacha Wainwright, Dianne Alagich, Sarah Cooper, Tracey Wheeler, Kelly Golebiowski.

Also, two players currently based overseas, Cheryl Salisbury and Angela Iannotta both suffered broken legs while on tour with the Australian team.

Looking Ahead to 1997 . . .

Last year was the first phase of Australia's rebuilding phase in the leadup to the 1999 World Cup and 2000 Olympics. Much progress was made and new initiatives put into place with promising results.

It is vital 1997 produces further success. Now the seeds have been sown, this year must be one of significant consolidation and advancement.

The results gained on the USA Tour were an incredible achievement, but something we must not get carried away with. It is clear Australia is still way behind the standards of the USA, and the top few nations, particularly in technical skills and presence on the ball.

The aim must always be to achieve continual improvement. Football is a game where one can never reach perfection, and the players must adopt the attitude that there is still a lifetime of things to learn. It's this commitment and professionalism that must become second nature to Australia's elite players.

The Americans have the resources to undertake large scale preparation and competition. The Europeans have big name opponents within easy reach. Australia, already behind in rankings, and isolated by distance, must find a way to play many more international matches over the period of each year. Training camps and domestic competition are part of the overall process, but only internationals can provide the necessary matchplay and conditions to gain the experience necessary to reach the heights of world success.

With a new National Coach yet to be appointed, much is yet to unfold about the program for the coming years, but hopefully 1997 will see further major gains with only two years before the next World Cup campaign.

STATE STATS

ACT	
1st	Mitchell Cup (ITC)
2nd	ITC Challenge
Won	Academy Cup (ACTAS v NSWIS)
1st	Australian Junior Cship
5th	Australian Youth Cship
7th	Australian Cship
NSW	
5th	ITC Challenge
1st	Australian Youth Cship
1st	Australian Cship
NNSW	
2nd	ITC Challenge
1st	NSW Women's State League (Premiers & Champions) (ITC)
1st	NSW Waratah Shield (ITC)
6th	Australian Youth Cship
3rd	Australian Cship
NT	
8th	Australian Cship
QLD	
1st	National Clubs Challenge (QAS)
3rd	Australian Junior Cship
2nd	Australian Youth Cship
6th	Australian Cship
SA	
4th	ITC Challenge
2nd	Australian Junior Cship
7th	Australian Youth Cship
2nd	Australian Cship
TAS	
4th	Australian Junior Cship
9th	Australian Cship
VIC	
3rd	ITC Challenge
5th	Australian Junior Cship
3rd	Australian Youth Cship
5th	Australian Cship
WA	
4th	Australian Youth Cship
4th	Australian Cship

Debutantes...

A surprising nine players made their international debut during Australia's two overseas tours this year.

Katrina Boyd	Bryony DUUS
Joanne Peters	Kelly GOLEBIOWSKI
Kristyn Swaffer	BELINDA kitching
Tammie Thornton	Shelley YOUMAN
Amy Wilson	

FORM REVERSAL

Granted, only two rounds have been played out so far, but it's interesting to note the positions on the national league tables to date.

To an extent, the Ansett Australia Summer Series is loosely based around the concept of this year's ITC Challenge, but in a more complete, league format.

Comparing the results from that brief competition to the national league sees a complete reversal in fortunes. (NB: Queensland did not compete in the Challenge).

ITC Challenge:

First	ACT
Second	NNSW
Third	VIC
Fourth	SA
Fifth	NSW

	National League South Conference	National League Nth Conference
1st	SA	NSW
2nd	VIC	QLD
3rd	ACT	NNSW

OLYMPIC GAMES INSTANT HIT

☛Women's Soccer debuts at the Atlanta Olympic Games

☛Favourites and hosts USA claim the inaugural Gold Medal

☛World record created at the Women's Final held at Sanford Stadium, Georgia with an attendance of 76,481 – the largest crowd for any women's sporting event; of any kind, in history.

☛USA's Cindy Parlow becomes the youngest gold medallist in Olympic football history at age 18 years 83 days on the day of the final.

Gold	USA
Silver	China
Bronze	Norway
Fourth	Brazil
Fifth	Germany
Sixth	Sweden
Seventh	Japan
Eighth	Denmark

SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —

PASSARELLA CHANGES TEAM

Argentine national coach, Daniel Passarella made several changes to the team that will face arch-rival Uruguay, for the South American World Cup qualifying round, on January 12.

Gone are goalkeepers Pablo Caballero and Hernan Burgos, defenders Roberto Ayala (suspended), Javier Zanetti, Juan Pablo Sorin and Hernan Diaz, midfielder Jose Albornoz, and strikers Patricio Camps and Abel Balbo (resigned from the squad).

The newcomers are: Goalkeepers: Roberto Bonano (River Plate) and Ignacio Gonzalez (Racing Club)

Defenders: Jose Luis Chamot (Lazio, Italy), Nestor Fabbri (Boca Juniors), Pablo Paz (Tenerife, Spain) and Roberto Sensini (Parma, Italy).

Midfielders: Christian Bassedas (Velez Sarsfield), Fernando Galetto (San Lorenzo), Nestor Gorosito (San Lorenzo) and Diego Simeone (Atletico Madrid Spain).

Strikers: Hernan Crespo (Parma, Italy)

Chamot, Sensini, Bassedas Simeone and Crespo were selected again by Passarella while the only survivors from the team that drew with Chile are defenders Eduardo Berizzo (River Plate) and Nelson Vivas (Boca Juniors), midfielders Matias Almeyda (Seville, Spain) and Hugo Morales (Lanus), and strikers Gabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina, Italy), Claudio Lopez (Valencia, Spain) and Ariel Ortega (River Plate).

Another striker that could be included for the match against Uruguay is Atletico Madrid's Juan Esnaider.

Last week Argentina lost 3-2 against Yugoslavia in a friendly international played in Mar del Plata, 400 kilometres from Buenos Aires.

The Argentine team was: Bonano, Vivas, Sotomayor, Fabbri, Berizzo, Simeone, Astrada, Morigi (Morales), Camps (Crespo), Ortega and Esnaider.

Esnaider and Morales scored for Argentina.

Claudio Lopez: Argentine U23 player was amazed that his goal was given disallowed.

Hernan Crespo: newcomer to the Argentine international squad

MARADONA WANTS TO PLAY FOR PENAROL

Diego Maradona is interested in playing for Uruguayan champion Penarol during the 1997 season, according to a press report from Montevideo. Maradona asked Uruguayan agent Francisco Casal to negotiate the possibility of signing with Penarol.

The Argentine is a close friend of former Penarol's defender Pablo Forlan and veteran striker Carlos Aguilera, who is currently playing for the Uruguayan champion. Penarol, whose aim is to win the Uruguayan league for the fifth time in a row, is also interested in Brazilian midfielder Rai.

The current president, Jose Damiani, who will be re-elected unopposed on January 12 is willing to form a powerful squad to win the championship and make history as the only club in the country to win five tournaments in a row, twice, since the introduction of the professional league in Uruguay.

RIVER PLATE'S RECORD

River Plate (the millionaires), one of the best teams in the world, and the current Libertadores Cup champion, won its 25th title in the Argentine soccer league, nine more than its arch-rival Boca Juniors, an achievement that it will be hard to emulate.

The champion is the club who contributed more players than any other team to the Argentine national squad coached by a former footballer and coach of the club, Daniel Passarella.

Added to that, Americo Gallego as well as Alejandro Sabella, Passarella's assistants, also played for River Plate.

☆ ☆ ☆

River Plates results:

	Score	Goals
Gimnasia y Esgrima La Plata	0-0	
Union Santa Fe	3-1	Cruz (2), Francescoli
Banfield	2-0	Monserrat, Cruz
Huracan	3-2	Ayala, Monserrat, Francescolli
Deportivo Espanol	3-1	Monserrat, Francescoli, Gallardo.
Boca Juniors	2-3	Salas, Sorin
Platense	4-1	Cruz (2), Monserrat, Salas
Rosario Central	5-2	Francescoli (2), Monserrat, Cruz, Ortega
Gimnasia y Esgrima Jujuy	3-0	Ortega, Sorin, Cruz
Estudiantes de La Plata	1-0	Escudero
Colon Santa Fe	3-0	Ortega, Cruz, Escudero.
Lanus	1-3	Gallardo
San Lorenzo	4-0	Cruz (2), Salas, Medina Bello.
Ferro Carril Oetste	5-1	Ortega (2), Salas (2), Monserrat.
Racing Club	4-3	Francescoli (2), Ortega, Sorin.
Newell's Old Boys	3-1	Solari (2), Monserrat.
Velez Sarsfield	3-0	Salas (2), Monserrat.
Independiente	1-3	Francescoli.

River scored 50 goals, an average of 2, 88 per game, while striker Julio Cruz was the highest scorer of the league with 11 goals.

THE BEST PLAYERS IN THE AMERICAN CONTINENT

The annual poll carried out by the prestigious Uruguayan daily newspaper "El Pais" (The Country), among 180 soccer journalists in the Americas and Europe, announced the best footballers and teams in each country across North, Central and South America.

The following are the best players selected by the journalists.

☆ ☆ ☆

COUNTRY	TEAM	PLAYER
Argentina	River Plate	Ariel Ortega (River Plate)
Bolivia	The Strongest	Ramiro Castillo (The Strongest)
Brazil	Palmeiras	Djalminha (Palmeiras)
Canada	Montreal Impact	Paolo Ciccarfelli (Montreal Impact)
Colombia	Deportivo Cali	Ivan Valenciano (Junior of Barranquilla)
Costa Rica	Alajuense	Ronaldo Gonzalez (Saprissa)
Cuba	Villa Clara	Eduardo Sebrango (S Spiritus)
Chile	Colo Colo	Sebastian Rozental (Universidad Catolica)
Ecuador	Nacional	Hector Caraball (Nacional)
El Salvador Aguila	Waldir Guierra (Aguila)	
United States	Washington Utd	Carlos Valderrama (Tampa Bay)*
Guatemala	Xelaju MC	Martin Mechon (Comunicaciones)
Honduras	Olimpia	Enrique Centeno (Victoria)
Mexico	Necaxa	Sergio Zarate (Necaxa)**
Nicaragua Diriangen	Nelson Rosales (Kiriangen)	
Panama	Arabe Unido	Rene Mendieta (Plaza Amador)
Paraguay	Cerro Porteno	Aristides Rojas (Guarani)
Peru	Sporting Cristal	Roberto Palacios (Cristal)
Puerto Rico	A. Quintana	Angel Mussenden (Carolina)
Rep. Dominicana	Bancredicard	Dinardo Rodriguez (Bancredicard)
Uruguay	Nacional	Alvaro Recoba (Nacional)
Venezuela	Minerven	Felix Hernandez (Minervan)

* Colombian player
** Argentine player

In Europe Barcelona's Brazilian striker Ronaldo was named the best player in the Spanish league. Other prominent teams and players selected by the journalists in European countries were:

Italy	AC Milan	George Weah
Greece	Panathinaikos	Ilia Ivic (Olympiakos)
England	Newcastle	Alan Shearer
Portugal	Porto	Joao Pinto (Benfica)
Germany	Bavern Munich	Thomas Haessler (Karlsruhe)
Switzerland	Grasshoppers	Kubilay Turkilmaz (Grasshoppers)
Norway	Rosenborg	Frank Strandli (Lillestrom)
Sweden	IFK Gotemburg	Jesper Blomqvist (Gotemburg)
Malta	Floriana	Dannilo Desicic (Valetta)
Russia	Spartak Moscow	Andrei Tijonov (Spartak)
Romania	Steua Bucarest	Adrian Ile (Steua Bucarest)
Turkey	Galatasaray	Hakan Sukur (Galatasaray)
Bulgaria	CSKA Sofi	Marian Hristov (Levski Sofia)
Poland	Widzew Lodz	Marek Citko (Widzew Lodz)
Check Republic Slavia Prague	Martin Frydek (Slavia Prague)	
Croatia	NK Croatia Zagreb	Igor Cvitanovic (NK Croatia)
Austria	Rapid Vienna	Trifon Ivanov (Rapid Vienna)
Finland	Jazz Pori	Antonio (Jazz Pori)

THE SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONS OF 1996

Libertadores Cup: River Plate (Argentina)' Beat America, (Colombia), 1-0 and 2-0.

South American Supercup: Velez Sarsfield (Argentina) Beat Cruzeiro, (Brazil) 1-0 and 2-0.

South American Conmebol up: Lanus (Argentina) Beat Independiente Medellin, (Colombia) 2-0 and 0-1.

Inter American Cup: Velez Sarsfield (Argentina) Beat Cartagines, (Cost Rica) 0-0 and 2-0.

Cups Cup: Gremio (Brazil Beat Independiente (Argentina) 4-1.

COPA AMERICA 1997

The Copa America, the National Football Championship of South America will kick off on June 10 with the final to be played on June 29.

The tournament will be held in Bolivia with the participation of 12 teams divided into three groups:

Group A, in Cochabamba will include Argentina, Paraguay, Ecuador and Chile.

Group B, in La Paz: host nation Bolivia, title holder Uruguay, Venezuela and Peru.

Group C in Santa Cruz: Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico and Colombia.

1997 LIBERTADORES CUP

The groups for the 1997 Libertadores Cup are:

Group 1: Cerro Porteno and Guarani (Paraguay) and Bolivar and Oriente Petrolero (Bolivia)

Group 2: Velez Sarsfield and Racing Club (Argentina) and Nacional and Emelec (Ecuador)

Group 3: Colo Colo and Universidad Catolica (Chile) and Atletico Zulia and Mineros (Venezuela).

Group 4: Palmeriras and Gremio (Brazil) and Deportivo Cali and Millonarios (Colombia).

The first three teams of each qualifying group will join the current champion, River Plate of Argentina, in the second round.

UK SOCCER SUPPORTERS DOWNUNDER

QUICK ONE-TWOs

WITH MICKY BROCK of the UK Soccer Supporters

PO Box 56, Kingsway West, NSW 2208
Tel & Fax: (02) 9554-3888

VILLA FRUSTRATE UNITED

Manchester United were held to a frustrating 0-0 draw at home by Aston Villa on New Year's Day and remained third in England's premier league.

Despite having the better of a hard-fought match at Old Trafford, the champions, scorers of 10 goals in their last three league matches, could not find the net.

The match pitted the premier league's most prolific attack against its tightest defence. United have scored 42 league goals this season, while Villa have conceded just 19.

United's Andy Cole, Ryan Giggs and Eric Cantona all missed clear-cut chances and in the end it was Villa's defence which won out.

Chelsea, crushed 5-1 by Liverpool in the league at Anfield earlier this season, were forced to back-pedal for much of the first half as the visitors played their habitual patient passing game to near perfection.

Roberto di Matteo put Ruud Gullit's side ahead two minutes before halftime, capitalising on a mistake from Michael Thomas to run between the two centre-backs and score with a cool right-foot strike into the bottom left-hand corner of David James's net.

Chelsea kept their nerve after the interval and Mark Hughes almost put them 2-0 up when he crashed a shot against the crossbar from a tight angle.

Arsenal beat Middlesbrough 2-0 to go back into second, two points behind Liverpool with a game in hand. Ian Wright scored Arsenal's second, his 200th league goal, after Dennis Bergkamp had sent the Gunners' on their way with a crisp volley from 25 metres after 15 minutes.

John Hartson was sent off for Arsenal, for whom disciplinary problems are becoming a serious threat to their trophy ambitions.

It was a disappointing day for Middlesbrough player-manager and former England captain Bryan Robson, who selected himself for the first time in over a year in response to Boro's crippling injury crisis.

Robson, an inspirational midfielder with Manchester United in the 1980s, turns 40 later this month. Wednesday's match was Robson's 568th league appearance.

Alan Shearer scored the first top flight goal of 1997, hammering home a volley from a corner after just four minutes against Leeds. He added a second in the 77th minute and Les Ferdinand scored a late third to ensure a 3-0 victory for Newcastle, a result which takes them into fourth.

Nottingham Forest moved off the bottom of the table with a 1-0 win at West Ham, pushing Southampton into last spot for the first time this season.

Fellow strugglers Blackburn also won away from home, 2-0 at Everton, to leave Middlesbrough in the relegation zone.

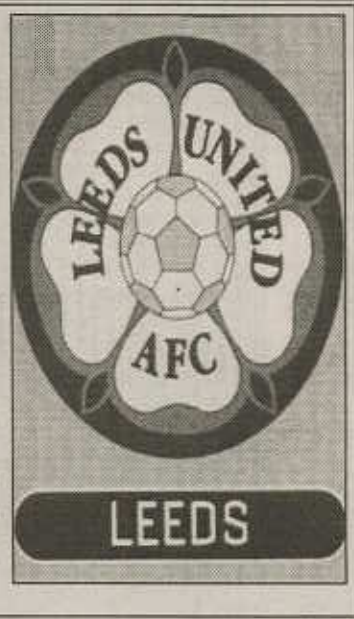
British year in focus Part 3

SEPTEMBER

Business as usual in Scotland as Rangers head the table and the Scottish Coca Cola Cup competition begins. The Gers thrash Hibernian 4-0 in the quarter final, 2 goals for Peter Van Vossen who comes on as a 36th minute sub for McCoist.

Manchester City, newly relegated to Division One, suffer yet another set back as they crash out of the English League Cup in a shock 4-1 loss to Lincoln City, the little Imps! Spurs are held 1-1 at Preston North End.

Quote of the year when George Graham takes over at Elland Road after the resignation of Howard Wilkinson. When asked what he could do with a Leeds defence that leaks more than a barrel full of holes he quips: "Don't worry, I'll soon BUNG those up!".



OCTOBER

Arsenal join Liverpool atop the Premier League as they down Sunderland 2-0 at Highbury but Wimbledon, most peoples choice as relegation candidates this term especially after losing their first three matches, go third as they topple Derby County by the same score.

Man Utd collect a hiding from Newcastle at St James Park, the first of some very interesting and unlikely results to come their way. The following week they are absolutely played off the park by Southampton and end up on the wrong end of a 6-3 mauling, their biggest defeat for over 20 years! To add to their misery, Chelsea arrive at Old Trafford next in the league and take away all the points as United stumble to yet another defeat.

Newcastle decide to go top for a while as Shearer continues to knock them in for his new club.

Rangers suffer their first league defeat of the season to managerless Hibernian. Custodian Jim Leighton is the hero of the 2-1 win as he twice saves a retaken penalty by Brian Laudrup in the 85th minute.

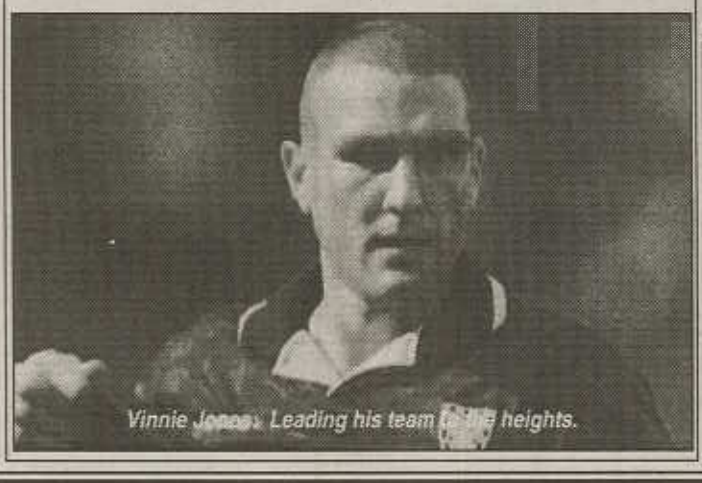
Motherwell chairman John Chapman confirms he is ready to sell the club.

Tomas Brolin of Leeds Utd states he wants to stay with his on loan Swiss club and doesn't want to return to play in England. If he doesn't get his way, he threatens to quit football altogether in a fine show of petulance.

Mark Bosnich commits a faux pas at White Hart Lane when attempting to be funny, insults the crowd with a Nazi salute. He later apologises for his lack of judgement to Alan Suger who accepts, it was a joke that backfired, on behalf of the fans.

Sadly, we record the death of Matthew Harding whose helicopter crashes as he returns from a League Cup match to see his beloved Chelsea at Burnden Park. There were no survivors from the four occupants. R.I.P.

Nick Barmby joins Everton in an $11.5 million deal.



Vinnie Jones: Leading his team to the heights.

NOVEMBER

Hang on to your hats, Celtic take over at the top of the Scottish Premier as they beat Aberdeen 1-0 while Rangers can only muster a 2-2 draw with bottom placed Raith Rovers as they continue to take only four points from a possible 12!

Mark Bosnich is again injured and is out until Christmas.

Wales are soundly beaten by Holland to the tune of 7-1. In a mixed night of emotions for two Highbury boys, Dennis Bergkamp helps himself to a hat-trick whilst John Hartson puts in a good performance for Wales along with Neville Southall. A pity some of the team suffered a collective 'off night'.

The hooliganism at the New Den, home of Millwall, stops unexpectedly when 90 minutes of football breaks out!

Everton swamp Southampton by 7 goals to one as Neville Southall finally realises what it's like to be on the better end of that scoreline.

Mark Bosnich is fined and censured over the infamous incident at White Hart Lane. Let's hope it's finished with now.

Arsenal beat Newcastle at St James Park when Ian Wright scores yet again. The significance of the feat is that Arsenal are down to ten men when Tony Adams is ordered from the field midway through the first-half.

Celtic waste a great opportunity to return to the top of the league as they draw 2-2 with Hearts at home. Di Canio is sent off during the game, the 10th Celtic player ordered off this season!

Dennis Bergkamp: Claimed a hat trick in Holland's demolition of Wales.

DECEMBER

Man Utd finally progress in the Champions League after goals from Ryan Giggs and Eric Cantona help the side defeat Rapid Vienna and progress through to the quarter finals.

Ally McCoist: Scottish aggregate goal scoring record fell to this Gers player

Two very later goals from Faustino Asprilla gives Newcastle a 3-1 aggregate win over Metz of France, one of the goals looking decidedly dodgy!

Emerson, one of Middlesbrough's Brazilian recruits, regrets signing for the club and decides to start going 'walkabout' that eventually sees him with three return trips to Brazil in less than a month and a bulging cupboard full of Duty Frees!

Ally McCoist first equals and then beats a long standing record north of the border in a 4-3 win over Hibernian. He equaled the post-war goal-scoring record of Gordon Wallace with his first strike of the afternoon and then claimed it for himself as he struck goal number 265, five minutes later (243 for Rangers, the other 22 were netted for St Johnstone).

And so, Christmas and the New Year are here again and as we, sometimes, fondly remember the old year, we have a new dawn arriving and plenty more football action to look forward to. I hope you'll all be able to join in it with me but that remains to be seen I'm afraid, can't say fairer than that!

Just enought time to wish you all a wonderful New Year and may your God kindly grant you all that you would wish for yourselves.

Be lucky, take care and good-bye 1996.

U.K. SOCCER

Detailed updates of all games direct from London with John Boughtwood from 6.30am

0055 5 2200

In Pho-75c/min. Higher mobiles & payphones

KILMARNOCK

BY STUART JONES

Ground:	Rugby Park
Address:	Rugby Road Kilmarnock Ayrshire KAI 2DP
Railway Station:	Kilmarnock (15 min walk)
Founded:	1869
Admitted to League:	1896
Ground Capacity:	18,168
Seats:	18,168
Pitch Size:	114yd * 72yd
Largest Gate:	35,995 v Rangers Scottish Cup 10th March 1962
Biggest Win:	11-1 v Paisley Academical Scottish Cup 18 Jan 1930 (+ 15-0 Ayrshire Cup v Lanemark 15 Nov 1890)
Heaviest Defeat:	1-9 v Celtic Div 1, 13 August 1938
Nickname:	Killie
Colours:	Blue and White (vertical stripes)
Honours:	League: Division One: 1964-65 Division Two: 1897-98, 1898-99 Scottish Cup: 1920, 1929

History: The club were originally a cricket club that had started playing Rugby in 1869 and Football in 1873. Their first soccer games were played at Wards Park before moving to the Grange. The team then moved to Holms Quarry. A dispute with the cricketers sharing that ground meant another move, this time back to near where they had played originally. That ground was called Rugby Park and had one of the first floodlit games played on it on the 8th of November 1878.

In March 1894 Scotland defeated Wales 5-2 on the same ground. On their election to Division One the club moved slightly - well the pitch was moved slightly on the same field. New stands were erected and a crowd of 11,000 saw Killie play Celtic in their first game at the new Rugby Park in August 1899. In 1910 another Scotland v Wales international was played on Kilmarnock's home ground.

During the Second World War the army converted the ground into an oil and coal storage depot. After the war the pitch was relaid twice to restore the damage. Italian POWs helped build up the northern terrace. Floodlights came in 1953 when the Busby Babes played against Killie.

In the 1960s the club came runners up four times before taking their first league title in 1965. Until the next year the club had one other claim to fame. Wilma died that year, she was the third and last sheep Kilmarnock had nurtured as a mascot, and apart from matchdays she and her predecessors had the complete run of the Rugby ground. These days the club are struggling to survive in the Premier League after recently dispensing with the services of Alex Totten as manager.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
— FIRST DIVISION —							
Southampton St Mary's	20	15	5	0	63	18	35
Millwall Athletic	20	13	5	2	63	24	31
Chatham	20	13	1	6	54	29	27
Tottenham Hotspur	20	9	4	7	43	29	22
Gravesend United	20	9	4	7	35	34	22
Swindon Town	20	8	3	9	33	37	19
Reading	20	8	3	9	31	49	199
New Brompton	20	7	2	11	32	42	16
Northfleet	20	5	4	11	24	46	14
Sheppey United	20	5	1	14	34	47	11
Wolverton L & NW Rly	20	2	0	18	17	74	4
— SECOND DIVISION —							
Dartford	24	16	4	4	83	19	36
Royal Engineers	24	11	9	4	49	37	31
Freemantle	24	12	4	8	58	40	28
Uxbridge	24	11	5	8	62	37	27
Wycombe Wanderers	24	10	6	8	37	54	26
Chesham	24	11	3	10	41	55	25
Southall	24	9	6	9	55	52	24
1st Scots Guards	24	9	6	9	49	50	24
West Herts	24	11	1	12	41	49	23
Warmley (Bristol)	24	10	2	12	44	43	22
Old St Stephens	24	5	7	12	36	52	17
Maidenhead	24	4	8	12	33	64	16
1st Coldstream Guards	24	3	6	15	30	66	12

* (Chatham)

Weird and Wonderful

BY STUART JONES

1896-97

One Hundred Years Ago!

This season saw Aston Villa repeat their performance of the previous term and take out Division One. They won one more game than the previous season and were champions by 11 points. Sheffield United came second on goal difference, a great part of that being their solid defence conceding only 29 goals in 30 games. Derby dropped to third whilst Preston were fourth. At the bottom Burnley finished last whilst Sunderland came second last, both being involved in the test matches for survival in the top flight.

In the second division the battle to be involved in these test matches saw three new entrants although Walsall (previously Walsall Town Swifts) had played league football before. The other two new teams were Blackpool and Gainsborough Trinity. Trinity would play in the League until 1913 when they were replaced by Lincoln City. They continue today as a non league side. Of the new boys Gainsborough finished the highest but not high enough as Notts County and Newton Heath qualified for the play off Test Matches. Notts County defeated Burnley 1-0 however Sunderland would stay up as they were victorious over Newton Heath 2-0.

Aston Villa's League title was not their only one of the season though. In the FA Cup semi-finals Aston Villa had defeated Liverpool 3-0 to enter the final against Everton (who had knocked out Derby County in the semis 3-2). Crystal Palace was again the Final venue and there were 65,000 there. The pace was very hot and it was a terrific game. Campbell scored the opener, for Villa, with Everton soon responding with their own goal from Bell. A free kick to Everton a few minutes later led to their second goal, this time through Boyle. Straight from the resulting kick off Crabtree for Villa passed to Wheldon who scored. Crabtree then headed a third for Villa a short time later. At the half time break Villa were 3-2.up Everton pushed hard in the second half but could not break their opponents and Villa became only the second club to do the double.

Of the 16 First Division clubs, seven came from Lancashire and all of them from either the North of England or the Midlands. In fact, only one club out of the 32 in the top two leagues, hailed from the south of England, Woolwich Arsenal.

In the Southern League Southampton St Marys took Millwall's top spot and won the title. New boys Dartford won the second division however neither they nor the Royal Engineers (Chatham) won their test matches and so neither were promoted.

In Scotland Hearts finished with 28 points two ahead of second placed Edinburgh rivals Hibs and so took out the Scottish League Division One. Rangers defeated Dumbarton 5-1 in the Scottish Cup Final.

LEAGUE TABLES

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
— FIRST DIVISION —												
Aston Villa	30	10	3	2	36	16	11	2	2	37	22	47
Sheffield U	30	6	4	5	22	16	7	6	2	20	13	36
Derby Co	30	10	2	3	45	22	6	2	7	25	28	36
Preston NE	30	8	4	3	35	21	3	8	4	20	19	34
Liverpool	30	7	6	2	25	10	5	3	7	21	28	33
Sheffield W	30	9	4	2	29	11	1	7	7	13	26	31
Everton	30	8	1	6	42	29	6	2	7	20	28	31
Bolton W	30	7	3	5	22	18	5	3	7	18	25	30
Bury	30	7	5	3	25	15	3	5	7	14	29	30
Wolves	30	6	4	5	26	14	5	2	8	19	27	28
Nottingham F	30	8	3	4	30	16	1	5	9	14	33	26
WBA	30	7	2	6	18	16	3	4	8	15	40	26
Stoke	30	8	3	4	30	18	3	0	12	18	41	25
Blackburn R	30	8	1	6	27	25	3	2	10	8	37	25
Sunderland	30	4	6	5	21	21	3	3	9	13	26	23
Burnley	30	4	5	6	25	25	2	2	11	18	36	19
— SECOND DIVISION —												
Notts Co	30	12	1	2	60	18	7	3	5	32	25	42
Newton Heath	30	11	4	0	37	10	6	1	8	19	24	39
Grimsby T	30	12	2	1	44	15	5	2	8	22	30	38
Small Heath	30	8	3	4	36	23	8	2	5	33	24	37
Newcastle U	30	13	1	1	42	13	4	0	11	14	39	35
Manchester C	30	10	3	2	39	15	2	5	8	19	35	32
Gainsboro T	30	10	2	3	35	16	2	5	8	15	31	31
Blackpool	30	11	3	1	39	16	2	2	11	20	40	31
Leicester F	30	11	2	2	44	19	2	2	11	15	37	30
W Arsenal	30	10	1	4	42	20	3	3	9	26	50	30
Darwen	30	13	0	2	54	16	1	0	14	13	45	28
Walsall	30	8	2	5	37	25	3	2	10	16	44	26
Loughboro'T	30	10	0	5	37	14	2	1	12	13	50	25
Burton S	30	7	4	4	33	20	2	2	11	13	41	24
Burton W	30	8	1	6	22	22	1	1	13	9	45	20
Lincoln C	30	4	2	9	17	27	1	0	14	10	58	12

Billy Bassett, sixteen times an England International and W.B.A. great from 1886-1899.

West Bromwich Albion in 1894-5, defeated 1-0 by Aston Villa in the FA Cup but 1-0 victors over Villa in the Birmingham Cup. Back row (left to right): T. Higgins, J. Taggart, J. Reader, J. Horton, W. Williams. Front: T. Perry, W. Bassett (captain), R. McLeod, W. Richards, t. Hutchinson, J. Banks.

UK STORIES

VILLA FRUSTRATE UNITED ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

Manchester United were held to a frustrating 0-0 draw at home by Aston Villa on New Year's Day and remained third in England's premier league.

With leaders and arch-rivals Liverpool losing 1-0 at Chelsea earlier that day, United had a chance to move above Arsenal into second place and put the Merseysiders under more pressure at the top of the table.

Despite having the better of a hard-fought match at Old Trafford, the champions, scorers of 10 goals in their last three league matches, could not find the net.

The match pitted the premier league's most prolific attack against its tightest defence. United have scored 42 league goals this season, while Villa have conceded just 19

United's Andy Cole, Ryan Giggs and Eric Cantona all missed clear-cut chances and in the end it was Villa's defence which won out.

A solitary goal from Italian Roberto di Matteo was enough to seal Chelsea's victory over Liverpool and, with Arsenal and Newcastle both winning, the gap at the top of the table has been narrowed despite United's setback.

Chelsea, crushed 5-1 by Liverpool in the league at Anfield earlier this season, were forced to back-pedal for much of the first half as the visitors played their habitual patient passing game to near perfection.

But di Matteo put Ruud Gullit's side ahead two minutes before halftime, capitalising on a mistake from Michael Thomas to run

Roberto di Matteo: "Scored Chelsea's winner against Liverpool."

between the two centre-backs and score with a cool right-foot strike into the bottom left-hand corner of David James's net.

Chelsea kept their nerve after the interval and Mark Hughes almost put them 2-0 up when he crashed a shot against the crossbar from a tight angle.

Arsenal beat Middlesbrough 2-0 to go back into second, two points behind Liverpool with a game in hand. Ian Wright scored Arsenal's second, his 200th league goal, after Dennis Bergkamp had sent the Gunners' on their way with a crisp volley from 25 metres after 15 minutes.

Fabrizio Ravanelli earned a chance to bring Middlesbrough back into the match when he was fouled by Patrick Vieira in the penalty area, but the former Juventus striker thumped his spot-kick against the crossbar.

John Hartson was sent off for Arsenal, for whom disciplinary problems are becoming a serious threat to their trophy ambitions.

Wright, now just 12 goals short of the club's all-time scoring record, was playing his last game before starting a three-match suspension after being sent off at Nottingham Forest on December 21.

It was a disappointing day for Middlesbrough player-manager and former England captain Bryan Robson, who selected himself for the first time in over a year in response to Boro's crippling injury crisis.

Robson, an inspirational midfielder with Manchester United in the 1980s, turns 40 later this month. Wednesday's match was Robson's 568th league appearance.

Alan Shearer scored the first top flight goal of 1997, hammering home a volley from a corner after just four minutes against Leeds. He added a second in the 77th minute and Les Ferdinand scored a late third to ensure a 3-0 victory for Newcastle, a result which takes them into fourth.

Nottingham Forest moved off the bottom of the table with a 1-0 win at West Ham, pushing Southampton into last spot for the first

time this season.

Fellow strugglers Blackburn also won away from home, 2-0 at Everton, to leave Middlesbrough, with a squad packed with big-name foreign signings, in the relegation zone.

FA CUP THIRD ROUND

Division one Reading produced the big upset of the FA Cup Third Round when they beat Premier League strugglers Southampton 3-1. Saints manager Graeme Souness looked angry with some of the referee's decisions after goals by James Lambert and Darren Caskey and Trevor Morley's penalty had put his Premier league Cellar Dwellers out of the competition. Southampton defender Francis Benali was sent off for elbowing Morley in the incident that led to the penalty.

Liverpool, last season's losing finalists, Chelsea and Blackburn were among the big names to move smoothly into the fourth round while Middlesbrough crushed third division Chester 6-0 and Sheffield Wednesday overpowered first division Grimsby 7-1.

Liverpool overcame division two Burnley 1-0, Chelsea outclassed division one West Bromwich Albion 3-0 and Blackburn scored a 1-0 victory over another first division team, Port Vale. Six-time FA Cup winners Arsenal were held 1-1 at home by another Premier League team, Sunderland, and West Ham could only manage a 1-1 draw at division two Wrexham.

With Robbie Fowler absent through ankle injury, Stan Collymore was Liverpool's scoring hero against Burnley while Dennis Wise, Craig Burley and Gianfranco Zola were on target for Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

Norwegian forward Lars Bohinen scored Blackburn's winner against Port Vale while Michael Gray cancelled out Jon Hartson's goal for

Gianfranco Zola: Scored one of Chelsea's goals in their 3-0 win over WBA.

Arsenal at Highbury.

Brazilian star Juninho was absent through injury but Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli scored twice for Middlesbrough against Chester, with Craig Hignett, Neil Cox, Mikkel Beck and Phil Stamp also hitting the target. Ritchie Humphreys and Andy Booth both scored twice for Sheffield Wednesday at Hillborough and Dean Saunders hit two for Nottingham Forest in a 3-0 victory over division one Ipswich..

The freezing weather wrecked Saturday's schedule in England and Scotland with 13 of the 27 cup games called off in England and only one of the nine league games scheduled possible.

Although 13 Scottish games were called off, all the Premier Division games in Scotland were played with Rangers downing Hibernian 2-1 and Celtic scoring a 5-0 victory over Motherwell.

Rangers remains 14 points ahead although Celtic has two games in

hand.

YEBOAH FIT FOR GHANA

English Premier League club Leeds United are furious that unsettled striker Tony Yeboah will play a World Cup qualifier for Ghana next weekend, even though he is officially injured.

Yeboah will start against Morocco on Sunday, thus ruling himself out of Leeds' Premiership clash with Leicester as well as their FA Cup tie against Crystal Palace.

"I'm baffled as to how Tony can be fit to play for Ghana when he is not fit to turn out for Leeds," complained Leeds chairman Bill Fotherby. "As far as I'm aware he's injured. He strained a hamstring against Manchester United and missed our game at Newcastle on New Year's Day.

"He hasn't completed 90 minutes for us since March yet Ghana want him for an important World Cup qualifier. I'm not happy about it, but there's nothing we can do because Ghana have requested his release and we must comply."

"CHEAT!" CHANT HIBS FANS

Rangers came from behind to beat Hibernian 2-1 and maintain their 14-point lead at the top of the Scottish premier divison on Saturday, despite Celtic's 5-0 thrashing of Motherwell.

But Rangers Danish skipper Brian Laudrup was branded a "cheat" by Hibs fans at Easter Road as Walter Smith's flu-hit side battled for that vital victory. Laudrup was involved in a controversial penalty incident which enabled German Jorg Albertz to score the winner 18 minutes from time. Hibs goalkeeper Jim Leighton challenged Laudrup, who tumbled to the ground after he had outstripped the Hibs defence.

The referee pointed to the spot, Leighton was booked for dissent and after Albertz scored the Hibs fans chanted "cheat, cheat" at Laudrup who they felt had stage-managed his fall.

Rangers had to come from behind, with their Danish striker Erik Bo Andersen cancelling out a seventh minute goal from Kevin Harper after 11 minutes.

It was Rangers fifth successive victory and keeps them 14 points ahead of arch-rivals Celtic, who have two games in hand. The Scottish League had turned down a late request from Rangers to have the match postponed because of a flu virus at the club.

Celtic were the highest scorers of the day although none of the goals in their 5-0 rout of Motherwell was scored by a Scot. Portuguese striker Jorge Cadete helped himself to a brace, with Italian Paolo di Canio, Dutchman

Pierre Van Hooydonk: One of four 'foreigners' who scored for Celtic.

Pierre Van Hooydonk and Dane Morten Wieghorst grabbing the rest.

Third-placed Dundee United beat Kilmarnock 2-0 while fourth-placed Hearts came back from conceding a first-minute goal to bottom club Raith, to win 2-1.

Supporters from Dhaka, Bangladesh
Four sorcerers try to put a spell on the opposition